

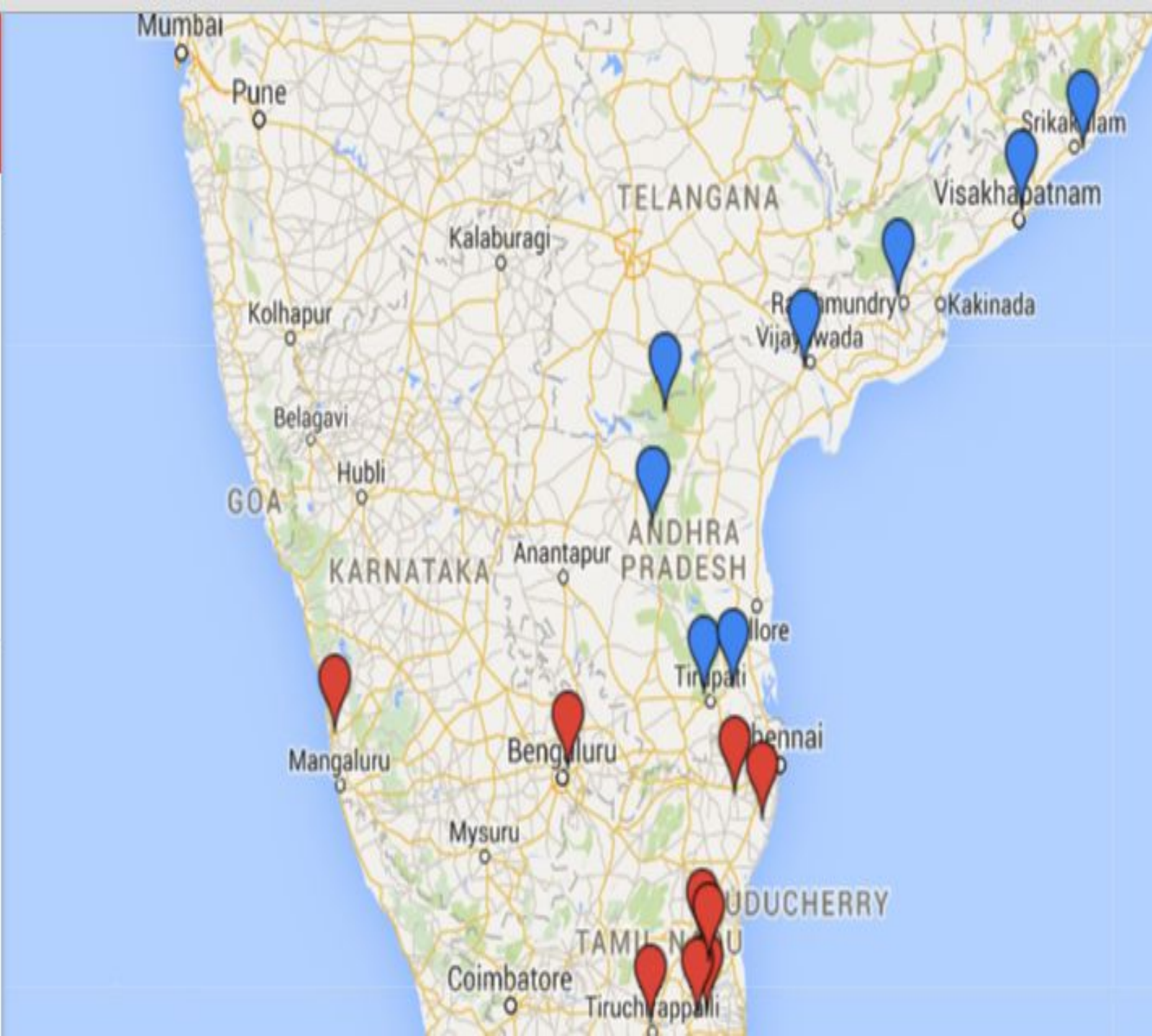
The background features a light purple-to-blue gradient. On the left and right sides, there are decorative elements resembling circuit boards, with thin blue lines and small circles. The text is centered in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font.

LORD CHAITANYA MAHAPRABHU'S SOUTH INDIA YATRA

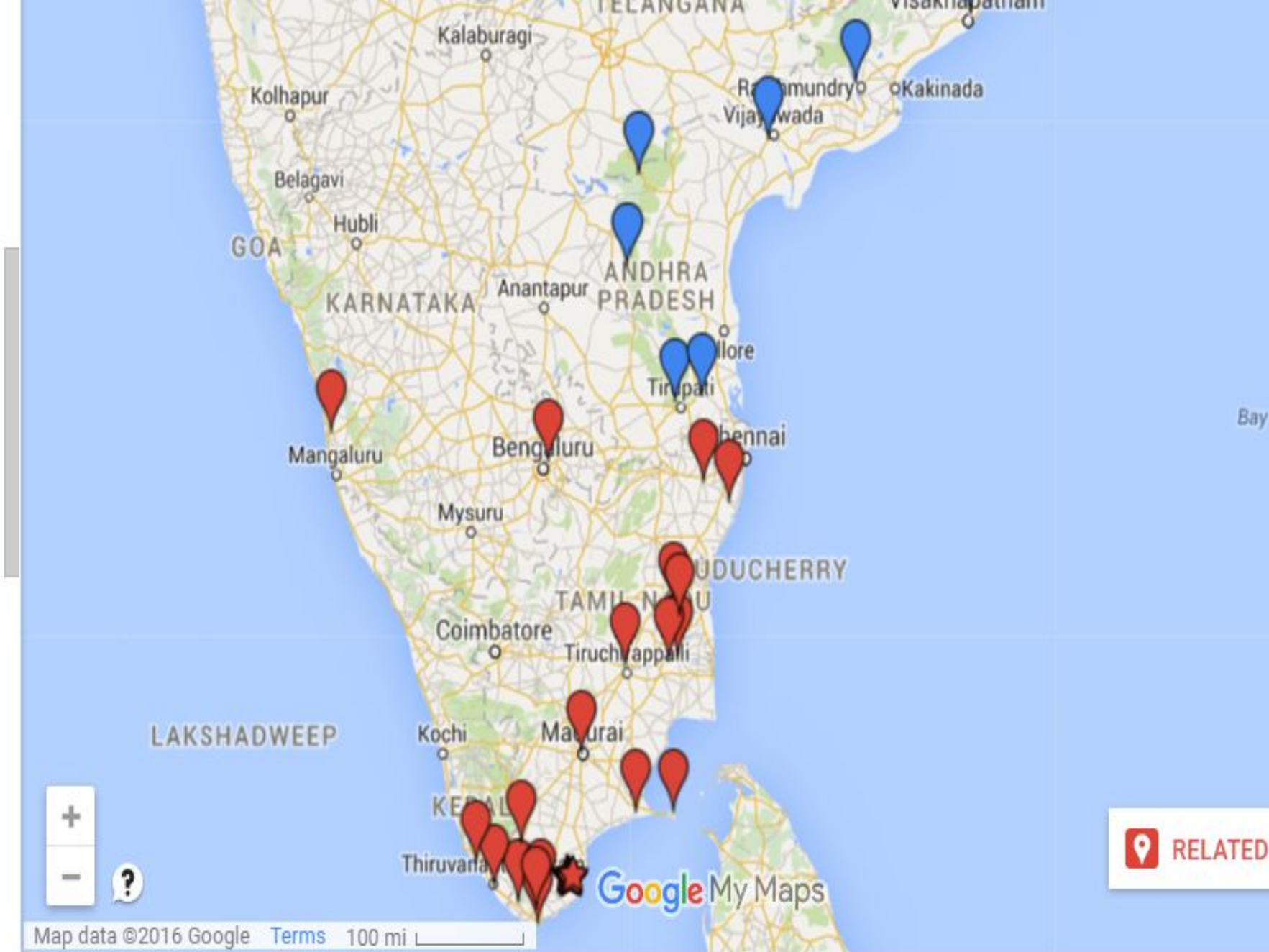


Caiyantra Patha Yatra

- AP - Kurma Ksetra
- AP - Simhachalam
- AP - Kovvur - Caitanya Gaudia Mutt
- AP - Mangalagiri - Panakala Lakshmi Nar...
- AP - Srisaile - Mallikarjuna temple
- AP - Ahobilam
- AP - Tirumala & Tirupati - Sri Venkateswa...
- AP - Srikalahasti - Sri Kalahastheeswara ...
- TN - Kanchipuram - a) Sri Varadaraja Per...



- 📍 TN - Kanchipuram - a) Sri Varadaraja Per...
- 📍 TN - Vriddhachalam - Sri Virudhagireesw...
- 📍 TN - Thirukalukundram
- 📍 TN - Kumbakonam
- 📍 TN - Papanasam
- 📍 TN - Srirangam - a) Sri Ranganath Templ...
- 📍 TN - Srimushnam - Sri Nithileswara Swa...
- 📍 TN - Madurai
- 📍 TN - Rameswaram - Ramanathaswamy T...
- 📍 TN - Thiruvattaru - Adikeshavan Temple
- 📍 TN - Thiruppullani
- ★ TN - Sri Vaikundam - Sri Vaikuntanathan ...
- ★ TN - ThiruVaragunamangai Perumal Tem...
- ★ TN - Arulmigu BhoomiPalagar Thirukkivil
- ★ TN - AlwarThirunagari Temple



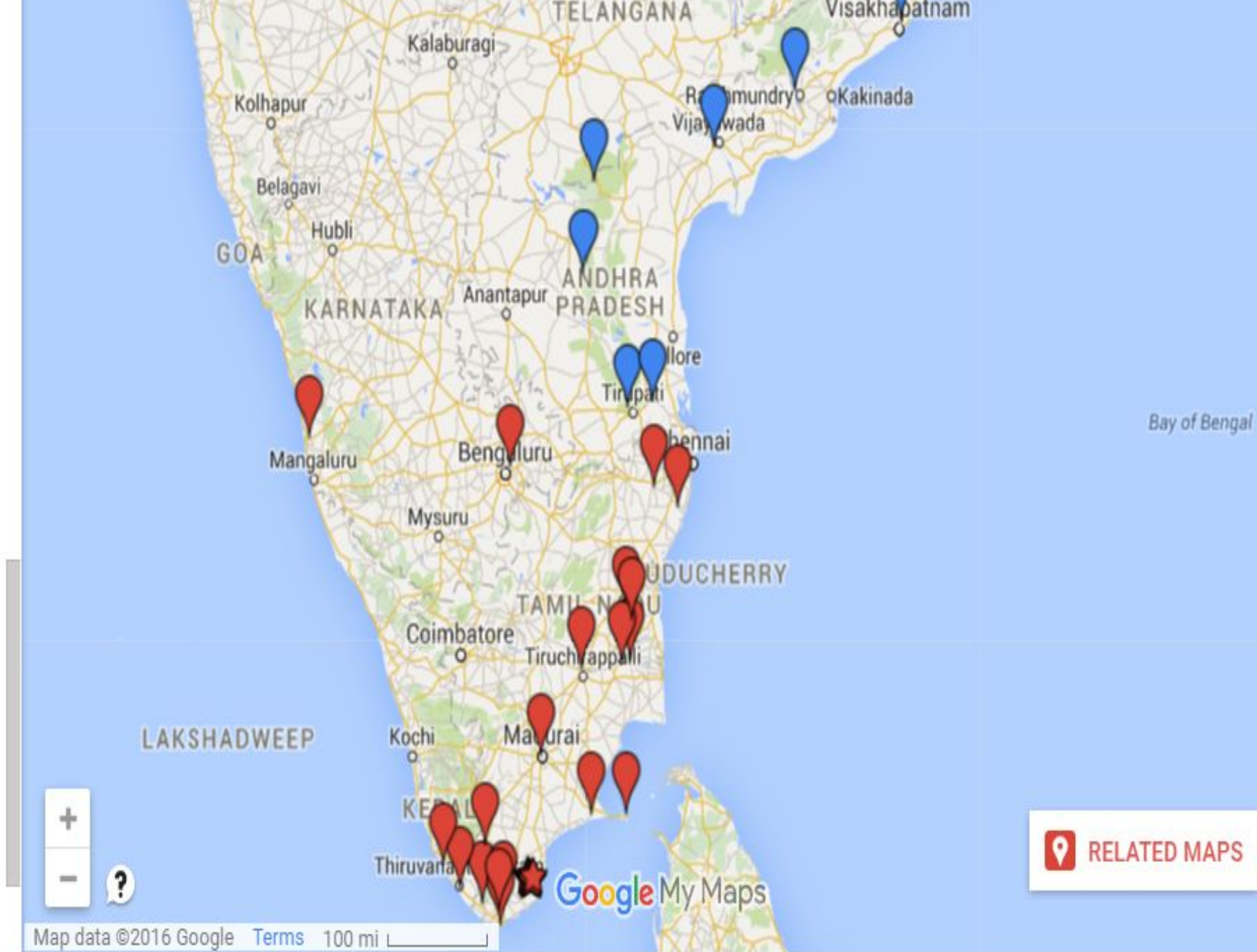
kurmam3.jpg

srikurmam2.jpg

srikurmam.jpg

Show all down

- ★ TN - AlwarThirunagari Temple
- ★ TN - Thirukkolor Perumal Kovil
- ★ TN- Irattai Thiruppathy (North)
- ★ TN - Irettai Thirupathi - Sri Srinivasa Peru...
- ★ TN - Thiru Makara Nedunkulai Kaather P...
- ★ TN - Swamy Mayakoothar Temple
- 📍 TN - Tenkasi - Kasi Vishwanathar Temple
- 📍 TN - Panakudi - Ramalinga Swamy Temple
- 📍 TN - Kanyakumari
- 📍 TN - Thovalai - Murugan Temple
- 📍 KR- Thiruvananthapuram - Sree Padman...
- 📍 KR - Varkala - Janardanaswamy Temple
- 📍 KA - Kalkere - Sringeri Shankar Mutt
- 📍 KA - ?? Udupi - Venugopal Temple



Mahaprabhu's South In...

Untitled layer

Simhachalam

West Godavari

Tirupathi

Cape Comorin

Rameshwaram

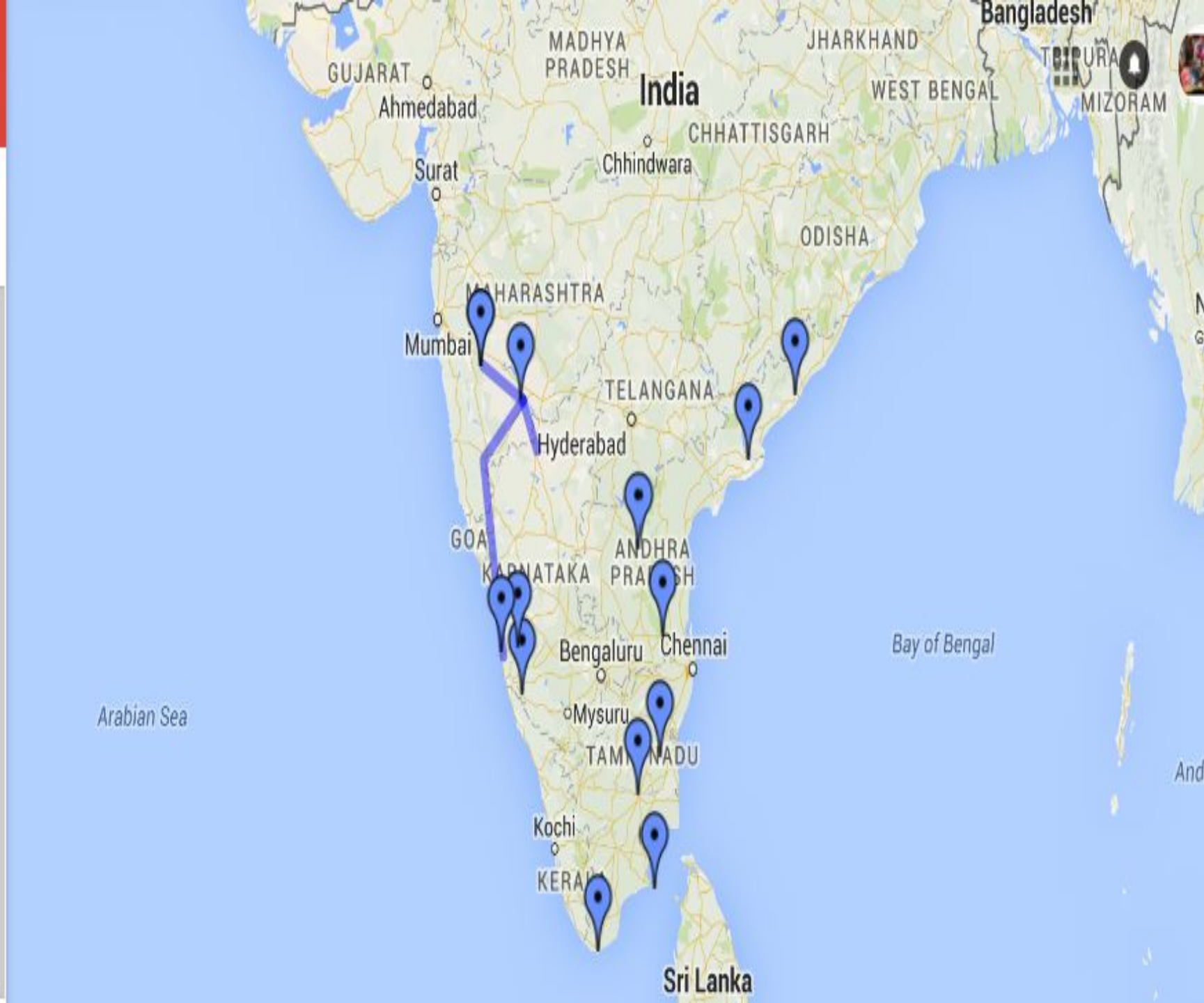
payaswini river

Sringeri, Karnataka

Udupi, Karnataka

Pandharpur, Maharashtra

Mahaprabhu Travel path



1. KURMA KSHETRA

CC, ML- 7.113-7.152

- Saw the deity, offered prayers, danced, and made everyone chant
- Instructed the Vedic Brahmana Kurma to remain in family life and preach
- Delivered the leper Vasudeva and came to be known as Vāsudevāmṛta-prada.

KURMA KSHETRA/ SRI KURMAM



KURMA KSHETRA

More than a Million Year old Shrine

References in Kurma, Vishnu, Padma, Brahmaanda Puraanaas.

Only Swayambhu Temple in the World where Maha Vishnu is adored in the form of Kurma (Tortoise)

Sri Chaitanya Prabhu's Foot Prints taken in year 1512.

Visited by many great Kings and Saints including Adi Sankaracharya, Ramanujacharya, Narahari Teertha, Chaitanya Mahaprabhu etc.

SIMHACHALAM- Jiyad Narasimha

CC ML 8.3-8.8

The deity is in the **tribhangi** posture, with two hands and the head of a boar on a human torso and a lion tail

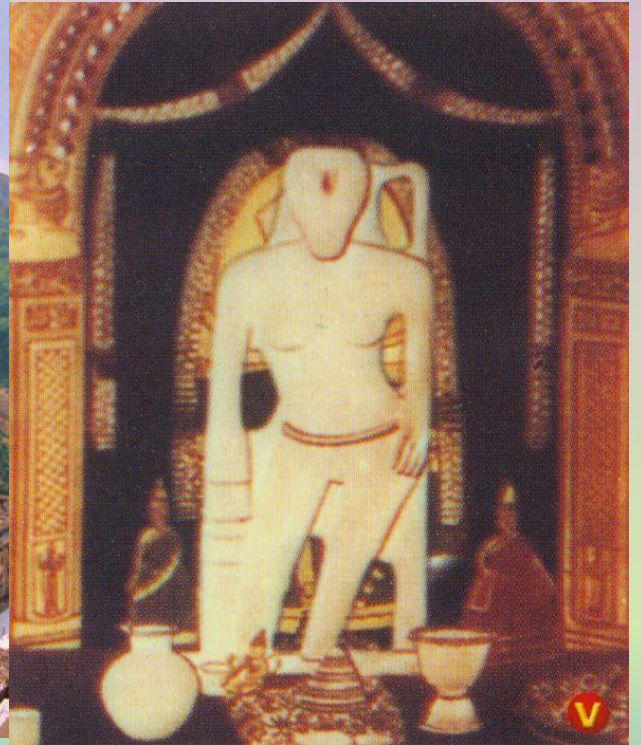
Lord jumped to rescue Prahlad when he was thrown and hence the lord's feet is deep inside and not to be seen.

Combined form of Varaha and NArasimha to give darshan to Prahlad who desired to see the combiend form

Deity installed by Prahlad, worshipped by Pururava, and reconstructed by the Vijayanagara kings.

SIMHACHALAM

CC ML 8.3-8.8



GODAVARI BANKS/KOVVUR/RAJAMUNDY

Meeting place of Ramananda raya and Mahaprabhu

CC ML 8.14- Chapter end



GODAVARI BANKS/KOVVUR/RAJAMUNDRY

CC ML 8.14- Chapter end

The following places in and around Rajahmundry are covered below where transcendental pastimes took place by Lord Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, Sri Ramananda Raya, Lord Nrsimhadeva, Prahlad Maharaja, Lord Sri Kurmadeva and visiting of Vaishnava-*acaryas* Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Thakura and Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

- (1) Meeting of Lord Caitanya and Sri Ramananda Raya - Sri Ramananda Gaudiya Math, Kovvur;
- (2) Sri Ghosapada - where sage Gautama Rsi lived; Lord Caitanya visited this place;
- (3) Sri Varada Gopal Temple - Lord Caitanya visited this place;
- (4) Sri Lakshmi Nrsimha Swamy Temple, Antarvedi - important temple of Lord Nrsimhadeva;
- (5) Antarvedi-Godavari sangam;

GODAVARI BANKS/KOVVUR/RAJAMUNDRY

CC ML 8.14- Chapter end

- (6) Lord Sri Jagan Mohini Keshava Swamy Temple, Ryali - important pastime of Lord Sri Krishna as Jagan Mohini and Lord Siva took place here as described in Srimad-Bhagavatam Canto 8 Chapter 12. Lord Caitanya visited this temple;
- (7) Sri Sri Radha-Gopinatha Dashavatara Temple, ISKCON Rajahmundry

For more details: <http://www.dandavats.com/?p=12588>

GAUTAMI GANGA

(CC ML-9.14)

A legend has it that the Sage **Gautama** lived in the Brahmagiri Hills at Trayambakeshwar with his wife Ahalya. The couple lived the rest of their lives in the then village "Govuru" which is now called "Kovvur"[Cow = ఆవు/గోవు] after the British rule. Ahalya lived in a nearby place "Thagami" which in due course of time changed to the name "Thogummi". The **Rishi** as a reason for Annadanam (The nature of giving away food), started cultivating rice crops and other crops. Once, a holy cow (maaya-dhenu) created by **Lord Ganesh** on the wish of munis, which resembled a normal cow entered his abode and started spoiling the rice while he was meditating.

MALLIKĀRJUNA-TĪRTHA (cc ML 9.15)

- Mallikarjuna is also known as Sri Saila. It is situated about one hundred miles northeast of Karnula on the southern bank of the Krsna River. There are great walls all around the village, and within the walls resides the deity known as Mallikarjuna. It is a deity of Lord Siva and is one of the Jyotir-lingas."
- Mallikarjuna Jyotir-linga temple at Srisaila is located atop Nallamalai Hill, along the River Krishna.
- This mountain is also known as Siridhan, Srigiri, Sirigiri, Sriparvatha and Srinagam Hill. The ancient Mallikarjuna Temple is rich in architecture and sculpture, and has been renovated and expanded over many years of patronage by various rulers.
- The presiding deities of this kshetram are Lord Mallikarjuna Swamy, the Jyotir-linga, and his consort Bhramaramba Devi, who is one of the eighteen Mahasakthis. Both deities are *svayambhu*, or self-manifested. The Mallikarjuna Linga is accessible to all devotees, and anyone can go into the sanctum sanctorum, touch the deity and perform abhishekam and archana, regardless of caste or creed. This non-sectarian mood of worship is a fitting reflection of what was surely Lord Caitanya's mood in visiting Mallikarjuna-tirtha, where He undoubtedly distributed mercy to all the fallen conditioned souls unreservedly.

GAUTAMI GANGA

(CC ML-9.14)

Knowing that a cow shall not be treated harshly, he put the dharbha grass on the cow and to his surprise it fell dead. The munis and muni-patnis said “we thought that Gautama maharshi is an Uttama, but he did Go-hatya!”. The Rishi wished to atone for the sin of ‘Gohathya’ - killing a sacred cow. He went to Nashik and did **Tapas** to Lord Tryambakeshwar (**Lord Shiva**) on the advice of the other rishis. The rishi requests the lord to release him from the sin by making the River Ganges flow over the cow. Lord Shiva was pleased with the Rishi and diverted the river Ganges to flow over the cow where it died which is in "Govuru". The River Godavari is thus born in **Nashik** and flowing past the village **Kovvur** and merge with the Bay of Bengal at last.

MALLIKĀRJUNA-TĪRTHA

(CC ML 9.15)



MALLIKĀRJUNA-TĪRTHA (Srisailam)

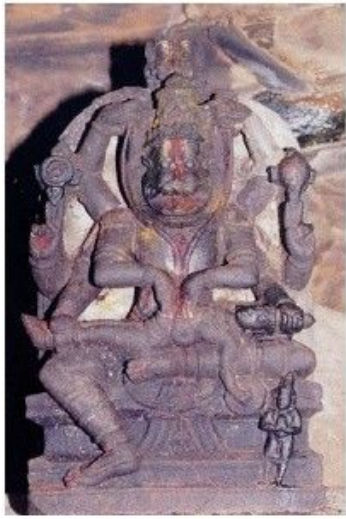
CC ML- 9.15



AHOBHILA NARASIMHA- AHOBILAM

(CC ML-9.16)

- Ahobilam is located in Karnool district of Andhra Pradesh in the hills of the eastern ghats, about 400 KM northwest of Chennai.
- The temple consists of nine shrines to Lord Nrisimha located around a 5 KM circle. In addition to the nine shrines, there is a temple for Prahaladavarada Varadhan in the foothills of the mountain. Due to security reasons and the difficulty in performing daily worship, many of the *utsava vigrahas* of the nine shrines are kept in this temple
- Ahobilam is the place where the Lord killed Hiranyakasipu and saved Prahalada. Mahalakshmi took avathar as Chenchulakshmi among the Chenchu, tribal hunters of the hills, and married the Lord.
- Brahmanda Purana says that this place was once the palace of Hiranyakasipu who was slain by Sriman Narayana manifesting as Narasimha from a pillar there for the sake of his staunch devotee Prahlada. Vagaries of time brought about the destruction of the then existing structures yielding place to nature's creation of the mountain range that preserved the site of incarnation as "Svayam Vyakta Kshetram" of Lord Narasimha.



Jwala



Ahobila



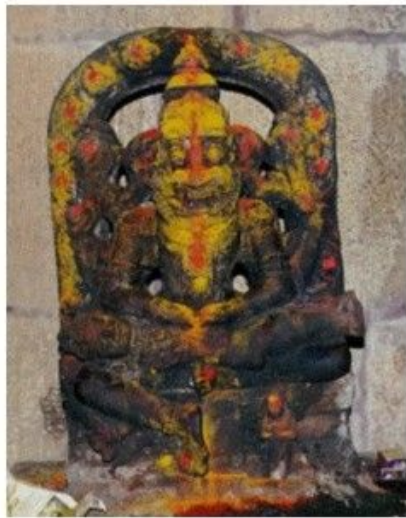
Kroda



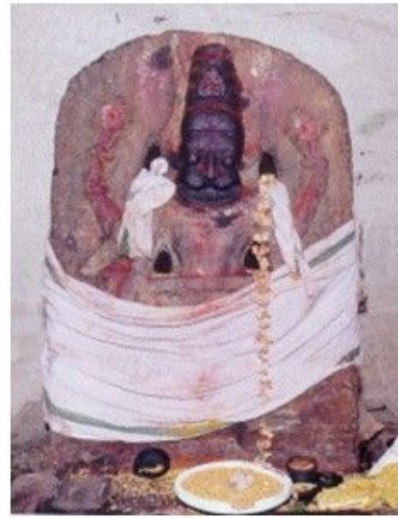
Malola



Kaaranja



Bhargava



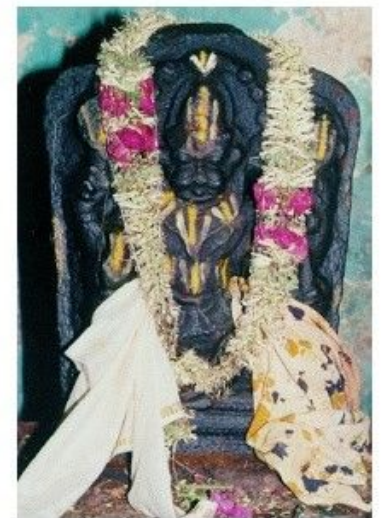
Yogananda



Malolan Serthi



Kshatravata



Pavana

2. Ahobhilam :Nava Narasimha kshetra

(CC ML-9.16)



AHOBHILA NARASIMHA- AHOBILAM (CC ML-9.16)

According to Stala Purana, there are two popular legends for the derivation of the word 'Ahobilam'. It is stated that the Devas (Gods), while witnessing the terrific aspect (Ugra Kala), the lord took on in order to tear to pieces Hiranyakasipu sung in His praise as 'Ahobala' (Lo: the strength). Hence this place has come to be known as Ahobilam. In support of this, there is a prapatthi sloka about-Ahobilam that reads:-

*"Aho Veeryam Aho Souryarn Aho Bahuparakramah
Naarasimham Param Daivam Ahobilam Aho Balam.*

The other version is that because of the great cave, the Ahobila, where Garuda worshipped, did penance and realised the lord, the place itself has come to be called Ahobilam.

Ahobhila Nava Narasimha (CC ML-9.16)

The Nine Narasimhasthalas are :- 1. Jwala Narasimha 2. Ahobila Narasimha 3. Malola Narasimha 4. Kroda Narasimha 5. Karanja Narasimha 6. Bhargava Narasimha 7. Yogananda Narasimha 8. Kshatravata Narasimha and 9. Pavana or holy Narasimha.

1. BHARGAVA NARASIMHA SWAMY

The Bhargava Narasimha Swamy is situated at a distance of two kilometres from the Lower Ahobilam, on a hill, near the sacred pond, known as 'Bhargava Theertham', where Bhargava Rama performed his penance. Hence the Lord of the temple is known as Bhargava Narasimha Swamy.

2. YOGANANDA NARASIMHA SWAMY

This temple is to the south-east of Lower Ahobilam at a distance of 2 kilometres. The popular legend is that after killing Hiranyakasipu, Lord Narasimha taught Prahlada several yogic postures. Therefore, the Lord in this aspect is called Yogananda Narasimha.

Ahobhila Nava Narasimha (CC ML-9.16)

3. CHATRAVATA NARASIMHA SWAMY

About three kilometres from lower Ahobilam, the image of the deity is installed under a peepal tree, surrounded by thorny bushes. Hence, the Lord is called as Chatravata Narasimha Swamy.

4. AHOBILA NARASIMHA SWAMY

The temple, situated on the Upper Ahobilam, at a distance of eight kilometres from the Lower Ahobilam, is the main temple and the earliest of all the nine temples there. The Lord here appears in his fierce aspect, called Ugra Narasimha, who is the presiding deity of the temple and is known as Ahobila Nrisimha Swamy. It is firmly believed the Lord Narasimha was 'Svayambhu' (self-manifest) here.

5. KRODAKARA (VARAHA) NARASIMHA SWAMY

The temple of this Lord is one kilometre away from the main temple of Ahobila Nrisimha Swamy on the Upper Ahobilam. The image of the deity has the face of a boar (varaha or kroda) and the Lord is seen along with his Consort, Lakshmi. Hence the Lord of the temple is known as Krodakara (Varaha) Narasimha Swamy here.

Ahobhila Nava Narasimha (CC ML-9.16)

6. KARANJA NARASIMHA SWAMY

This shrine is situated at a distance of one kilometre from the Upper Ahobilam and one furlong from the road leading to Lower Ahobilam. The image of the deity is installed under a tree, called 'Karanja Vruksham'. Hence this Lord is called Karanja Narasimha Swamy.

7. MALOLA NARASIMHA SWAMY

Nearly two kilometres from the main temple of Upper Ahobilam, is the famous shrine of Malola Narasimha Swamy. The deity here appears in 'soumya' (graceful) form. As Lord Narasimha is seen with his consort, Lakshmi, He is known as Malola Narasimha Swamy. The word 'Malola' means beloved to Lakshmi (Ma=Lakshmi, Lola= beloved). It is said that the 'utsavamoorthi' of the Lord appeared to Srimath Adivan Satakopa Jeeyar, the first Jeeyar of Ahobila Mutt. Right from the founder, i.e., the first Jeeyar of Ahobila Mutt down to the 44th pontiff, Srivan Satakopa Sri Vedanta Desika Yattheendra Mahadesika, the present jeeyar, the utsavamoorthi of Malola Narasimha Swamy is worshipped and it is taken by them whenever they are on religious tours, visiting the villages every year. Recently, the 45th Jeeyar Srivan Satakopa Sri Narayana Yattheendra Mahadesikan has taken over the worship.

Ahobhila Nava Narasimha (CC ML-9.16)

8. JWALA NARASIMHA SWAMY

The temple of Jwala Nrisimha Swamy, lies higher up the above temple, on a hill called, 'Achalachaya Meru'. This is about four kilometres from the Upper Ahobilam temple. This place is said to be the actual spot, where the fierce anger of the Lord reached its culmination when he tore Hiranyakasipu.

9. PAVANA NARASIMHA SWAMY

Nearby the above temple, is the shrine of Pavana Narasimha, on the banks of the river, Pavana and it is about six kilometres from the Upper Ahobilam temple. Hence the Lord of the shrine is known as Pavana Narasimha Swamy.

In addition to the shrines mentioned above, there is a famous shrine dedicated to God Narasimha Swamy in the Lower Ahobilam, which is popularly known as Prahlada Varada Sannidhi.

Ahobhila Nava Narasimha (CC ML-9.16)

The other objects of this place are 'Ugra Sthambham' and 'Prahlada Mettu'.

(a) UGRA STHAMBHAM

At a distance of eight kilometres from the Upper Ahobilam temple, we can see a cleft of the mountain dividing it into two visible parts. It is a long-held view that from the cleft, the Lord appeared in the form of Narasimha and this cleft is known as 'Ugra Sthambham'.

(b) PRAHALADA METTU

The small shrine, situated in a cave on the hill, is in between Ugra Sthambham and the Upper Ahobilam. It is dedicated to Prahlada Narashimha Swamy. The image of the Prahlada is installed in a small cave.

There are a number of holy 'theerthas' (water ponds) round this place. Of these, Rakthakundam is the most important. It is stated that Lord Narasimha after killing the demon Hiranyakasipu, washed his hands in this 'theertham' and hence the water is still reddish in appearance. (History of the cult of Narasimha in Andhra Pradesh by Dr. M. Narasimhacharya).

SIDDHAVAṬA (LORD RAMA TEMPLE, Vontimitta)

- Temple is 28 km from Kadapa Town, 16 km from Siddout fort via Bhakarapeta
- Temple deities established by Jambavan , Built by Vontu & Mittu,
- Sita Rama Lakshman seen without Hanuman, separate sanctum for Hanuman
- Antaranga mandapa- 32 pillars, Vijayanagar architecture style
- According to Legend, Rama, Lakshmana and Sita spent some time here in the forest during the period of their exile. Once to quench the thirst of Sita, Rama shot an arrow deep into the earth, upon which sweet water gushed out. Later, with this perennial water spring, two small tanks named Rama theertham and Lakshmana Theertham.
- **Bammera Potana** who lived in Vontimitta wrote his *magnum opus* *Maha Bhagavatham* in **Telugu language** and dedicated it to Rama. Vavilakolanu Subba Rao, known as 'Andhra Valmiki' for translating **Valmiki's** *Ramayana* (the Hindu epic that narrates Rama's tale) into Telugu also spent his time here worshipping Rama. The saint-poet **Annamacharya** is said to have visited the temple and composed and sang songs or **kirtans** in praise of Rama.

SIDDHAVAṬA (LORD RAMA TEMPLE)- Vontimatta



SKANDA-KṢETRA (Thirutthani?) CC ML-9.21

- One of the six major abodes of Lord Murugan(Skanda/Karthikeya)
- Also known as Thanikachalam- abode of peace.
- It represents the site where Subramanya stayed after destroying the demon Surapadman. Tiruttani is said to be the place where Lord Subramanya rested peacefully after marrying Valli - one of his two consorts and gave darsan with both his wives.



SKANDA KSHETRAS-SIX ABODES of Karttikeya

Pazhani- Darshan as a small child- Angered because he was not given the special fruit and Ganesha received it.

Swamimalai- Place where he taught the meaning of Omkara to his father Siva

Thiruchendur- Gained victory over Surapadaman in the war

Thiruparankundram- Married Devayani (Indra's daughter) and settled

Thiruthani- After marrying Valli settled here and gives darshan

Pazhamudircholai- Gives darshan with both consorts

TRIMATHA (TRIVIKRAMA) Thirukoyilur CC ML-9.21



TRIMATHA (TRIVIKRAMA)

CC ML-9.21



- The lord appeared in the form of Trivikramaaa to honor Mrkandu Rishi's desire
- Originally a Krishna Kshetra, vishnu durga deity is present.
- Trivikrama deity -Right hand and right leg held upward.
- Lord appeared to the first three alawars, poigai alwar, peyi alwar and boothathalwar here . The first few verses of the Divyaprabantham were composed here (glories of 108 temples and forms of the Lord...each alwar (devotee) had love for the Lord. Sacred poetry equal to the vedas)
- The temple has a eleven-tiered raja**gopuram** with a height of 192 ft (59 m), the third tallest Vishnu temple tower in Tamil Nadu, after the one in **Srirangam Ranganathaswamy temple** and **Srivilliputhur Andal Temple**.
- After this Lord Chaitanya Mahaprabhu again visited the brahmana at Siddhavata 211 km

VRDDHAKĀŚĪ (VRDDACALAM)

CC ML 9.39

- Siva Temple named Virudagireeswara temple, Thirumoodukundram, ancient hill, bank of River Manimukha-Vellar.
- Known Vrddhakasi as it is considered equivalent to Kasi, Svaymabhu linga



TIRUPATI AND TIRUMALA

Tirupathi is located 150 kms away from Chennai

Once, some rishis headed by **Kasyapa** began to perform a sacrifice on the banks of the Ganges. Sage **Narada** visited them and asked them why they were performing the sacrifice and who would be pleased by it. Not being able to answer the question, the rishis approached **Sage Bhrigu**, who according to the **Vedas**, is believed to have an extra eye in the sole of his foot. To reach a solution after a direct ascertainment of reality, Sage Bhrigu first went to **Satyaloka**, the abode of Lord **Brahma**. At Satyaloka, he found Lord Brahma reciting the four Vedas in praise of Lord **Narayana**, with each of his four heads, and attended upon by **Saraswati**. Lord Brahma did not take notice of Bhrigu offering obeisance. Bhrigu left Satyaloka for **Kailasa**, the abode of Lord **Shiva**. At Kailasa, Bhrigu found Lord Shiva deep in meditation on Lord Narayana (Krishna) with **Parvati** by his side. Bhrigu called out to Lord Shiva with no response from the Lord, so left for **Vaikuntha**, the abode of Lord **Vishnu**.

TIRUPATI AND TIRUMALA

CC ML-9.64



TIRUPATI AND TIRUMALA

CC ML-9.64

At **Vaikuntha**, **Lord Vishnu** was reposing on **Adishesha** with Sri **Mahalakshmi** in service at his feet. Finding that Lord Vishnu also did not notice him, the sage was infuriated and kicked the Lord on His chest, the place where **Mahalakshmi** resides. Vishnu, in an attempt to pacify the sage, got hold of the legs of the sage and started to press them gently in a way that was comforting to the sage. During this act, he squeezed the extra eye that was present in the sole of Bhrigu's foot. The extra eye is believed to represent the sage's egotism. The sage then realized his grave mistake and apologized to Vishnu. Thereupon, the sage concluded that Lord Vishnu was the most supreme personality of godhead and told the rishis the same. Next part of the story please follow the link-

<http://www.iskcondesiretree.com/group/holy-places-in-india/forum/topics/tirupati>

TIRUPATI AND TIRUMALA CC ML-9.64

Venkateswara's temple, today is located at the top of the Seven hills in **Tirumala**. It stands as a special place, commemorating the marriage between the two. Everyday, a kalyana utsavam celebrates the divine union in a celebration that stretches to eternity. Even today, during the **Brahmotsavam** at the temple, turmeric, kumkum and a sari are sent from the temple to **Alamelu Mangapuram**, the abode of Padmavati.

The seven hills, also called Saptagiri, represent the saptarishis (seven sages). They sometimes called the Sapthagiri. Hence the Lord is named Saptagirinivasa (the lord of seven hills). The following are the seven hills:

- Anjanadri — Hill of Lord **Hanuman**ji. It is said to be birthplace of lord **H**anuman.
- Neeladri - Hill of Neela Devi - It is believed that hair offered by the devotees is accepted by Neela Devi. It is because of **boon** granted by Lord Venkateswara to Neela Devi.
- Garudadri or Garudachalam - Hill of garuda, the carrier of Lord Vishnu
- Seshadri or Seshachalam - Hill of **Sesha**, the **dasa** of Lord Vishnu
- Naraynadri - Hill of Narayana. Srivari Padalu are located here
- venkatadri - Hill of Lord Venkateswar
- Vrushabhadri - Hill of nandi, the carrier of Lord Shiva

PĀNĀ-NṚSĪMHA

CC ML-9.66



PĀNĀ-NṚSĪMHA

CC ML-9.66

The Lord that has established himself on the hill is in the form of Narasimha (man-lion) which Lord Vishnu assumed to kill Hiranyakasipu, a rakshasa father of Prahlada, a great devotee. He is also called as Sudarsana Narasimhaswamy. The legend says that Namuchi, a Rakshasa after great penance obtained a boon from Brahma that he would not be killed by anything that is either wet or dry. He began to harass Indra and the Devathas. Encouraged and supported by Lord Vishnu, Indra commenced destroying the army of Rakshasa Namuchi, who did in a cave in Sukshmakaram (small size) giving up his sthulakaram (Physical manifestation). Indra dipped Sudarsanam, the disc of Lord Vishnu in the foam of the ocean and sent it into the cave. Lord Vishnu manifesting himself at the centre of the disc destroyed the Pranavayuvu (life breath) of the Rakshasa with the fire of his exhalation. He thus got the name of Sudarsana Narasimha. The blood that flowed from the body of the Rakshasa seemed to have formed into a pool at the foot of the hill which is known hill. The Devathas themselves were unable to withstand the fire of the anger of the Lord and they prayed for appeasement. The Lord took amrutam (nectar) and cooled down. It was in Krithayugam. The Lord said that he would be satisfied with ghee in Threthayugam, with milk in Dwaparayugam and with panakam(Jaggery water) in Kaliyugam. Hence the Lord is called in Kaliyugam as Panakala Lakshmi Narasimhaswamy.

PĀNĀ-NṚSĪMHA

CC ML-9.66

Panakala Narasimha Swamy - God Who Drinks Panakam

It is said that here, god is self-existent. In the temple, there will be no statue of the god, but there is only mouth, widely opened to 15 cms. The mouth is covered by metal face of the god. The temple will be opened till afternoon only, with the belief that devatas will perform pujas in the night. The God takes jaggery water as offering by a conch. The Jaggery water is actually poured into the mouth of the Lord, a gargling sound is clearly audible as if the Lord is actually drinking it and the sound becomes shriller and shriller as and when the Lord is drinking. The sound will come to a stop after sometime and the balance of the jaggery water is thrown out. This phenomenon happens not once in a day but is a recurring feature during the course of the day as and when devotees offer panakam (jaggery water). It will be interesting to note that even a single ant is not traceable near the Lord nor around the temple in spite of the offering of so much jaggery water. As the offering of the panakam to the Lord is peculiar, the Lord here is called panakala Narasimhaswamy.

ŚIVA-KĀÑCĪ (Kanchipuram) CC-ML-9.68

- The [Garuda Purana](#) enumerates seven cities as providers of moksha, namely [Ayodhya](#), [Mathura](#), [Haridwar](#), [Varanasi](#), [Avantikā](#), [Dvārakā](#) and Kanchipuram.
- The capital of the Pallavas, known as the city of thousand temples
- Land of many saints including the alwars and acaryas of Sri Sampradaya
- Atleast 15 major Vishnu temples and about 108 major Siva temples , many small temples
- Siva Kanchi- Kanchi Kailasanatha Temple, 58 shrines, ancient structure, sandstone architecture. Ekambareswara Temple- Biggest temple, glorified by the Nayanmars, Linga represents Earth among Panchabhutas.

ŚIVA-KĀÑCĪ

CC-ML-9.68 EKambareshwarar



Kailasanathar- Ancient temple,
architectural wonder

ŚIVA-KĀÑCĪ

CCML-9.68

- Parvati devi underwent austerities to marry Lord Siva under a mango tree
- Siva sent impediments like fire and water to test her steadfastness
- Lord Vishnu appeared as Nilathingalthundathan and cooled the fire with his glance
- and the Ganges water obliged not to disturb her.
- She made a Siva lingam from Sand- Prthvi Lingam



Nilathingal Thundam (Kanchi) - Nilathingal Thundathan

VISHNU-KĀÑCĪ (VARADARAJA TEMPLE) CC, ML-9.69

- Devaraja , Athigiri, Hastigiri, Varadaraja perumal, Goddess Perundevi
- Known as the Perumal Kovil in Sri Sampradaya
- Kshetra mentioned in Padma Purana and Kurma Purana
- Appeared as a result of a fire sacrifice by Brahma, Ka-Brahma anchi-worship
- The original deity made of a fig tree is inside the tank and comes out once in 40 years, next appearance is in 2019
- Ramanuja, Thirukacchi Nambi (Kanchi Purna) and many other acaryas served
- Lord protected Ramanuja in the form of a hunter and his wife from the incident where he was attacked by Yadava Prakasa. Ramanuja was brought overnight to Kanchi.
- Several Vishnu temples around Varadaraja temple, as a result of the same sacrifice by Brahma

VIṢṆU-KĀÑCĪ (CC,ML-9.69)



Thiru thanka (Tuppul) - Deepa Prakasar



Ashtabuyakaram (Kanchi) - Adhikesavan



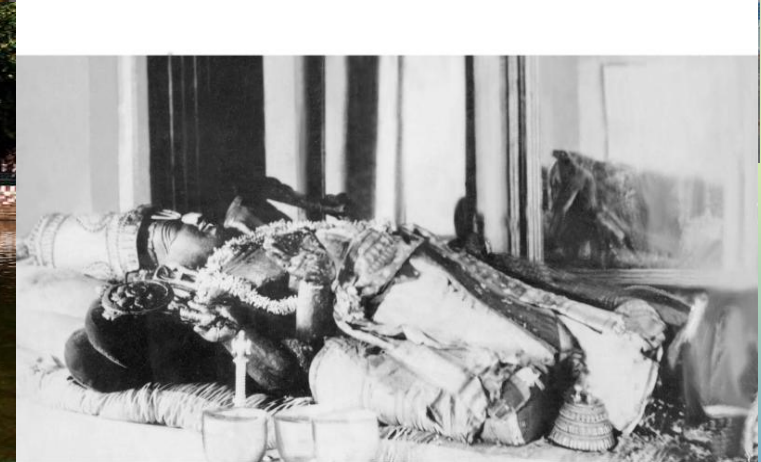
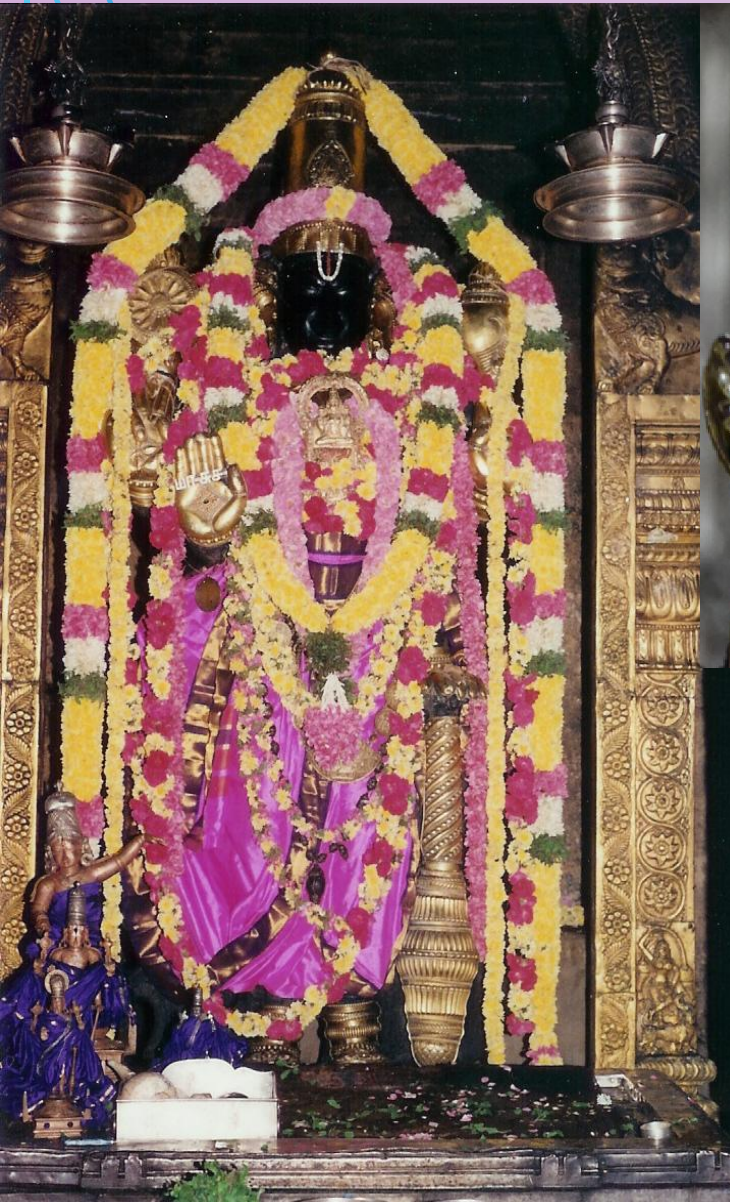
Thiru Velukkai (Kanchi) - Mukunda Nayakan



திருவெக்கா



VIṢṆU-KĀÑCĪ (VARADARAJA TEMPLE) (CC,ML-9.69)



KALAHASTI

This temple is considered as the **Kailash of the South**

Prthvi Lingam-Ekambareswara Temple

Appu Lingam (Jambu Lingam) Jambukeshwarar Temple,

Thiruvanaikaval

Agni Lingam (Jyothi Lingam) Arunachaleswara Temple

Vayu Lingam Sri Kalahastheeswara Temple

Aagaya Lingam (Akasha Lingam) Thillai Natarajar Temple

KALAHASTI



KALAHASTI

- It is said that Lord Shiva appeared in this place to Bhakta Markandeya to teach him that a Guru alone has the power to preach impenetrable understandings and is hence known as Brahma, Vishnu, and Maheswara.
- Another legend that speaks about the glory of Srikalahasti Temple refers to the Goddess Parvati's curse. Lord Shiva cursed Parvati to discard her heavenly body to take a human form. Parvati did a long penance here to get rid away from the curse and eventually Lord Shiva recreated her body using various mantras like the Panchakshari. Parvati then came to be known as Gnana Prasunamba or Gnana Prasunambika Devi.

KALAHASTI

- There are several legends associated with this temple. The most prominent being the strong devotion portrayed by the spider (Sri), the snake (Kala) and the elephant (Hasti). The elephant used to clean the deity by pouring river water from his trunks and praying with Bilva leaves. The spider protected the Shiva lingam by weaving his web and the snake placed a precious gem on the linga to decorate the God. One day there a fight occurred among the three as the elephant cleaned the linga where the snake and the spider placed gem and built the cob. While the snake died by entering the elephant's trunk, the elephant died by hitting its trunk and head against the linga. The spider is also squashed. Pleased with their selfless devotion, Lord Shiva gave them a blessing that their names will be associated with the Vayulinga and the place will be called as Srikalahasteeswara.

KALAHASTI

- The linga is white in color and remains untouched even by the priest.
- Srikalahasti Temple is the only temple which remains open irrespective of the Solar or Lunar eclipses. Srikalahasti Temple is considered to be one of the most remarkable Shiva temples in India. It consists of a huge and ancient entrance tower (gopuram) over the main entrance. This tower is 120ft high and is carved out from a huge stone hill. The Vijayanagara king, Krishnadevaraya in 1516 constructed the 100 pillar mandapam and the gopuram.
- A lamp is presented inside the inner sanctum which flickers constantly without any air movement. It can be observed in a better way when the priest closes the entrance of the main deity room that has no windows.

PAKSI TIRTHA/ VEDACALAM

- Paksi-tirtha, also called Tirukazhukundram, is located 15 kilometers southeast of Chengalpet, and 17 kilometers to the west of Mahabalipuram, a famous temple town in Tamil Nadu.
- Also known as Virudagireeswara temple, Eagle temple/ Egyptian vultures.
- 2 birds visit the temple everyday to take the remnants of Lord Siva, offerings made from rice, wheat, **ghee** and sugar, the birds have stopped coming since 1998. 2 sages were cursed by Lord Siva to take the form of birds
- Shanku thirtha produces a new conch every 12 years
- Thirupurasaundari and Bhaktavachaleswara deities at the foothills.

PAKSI TIRTHA/ VEDACALAM



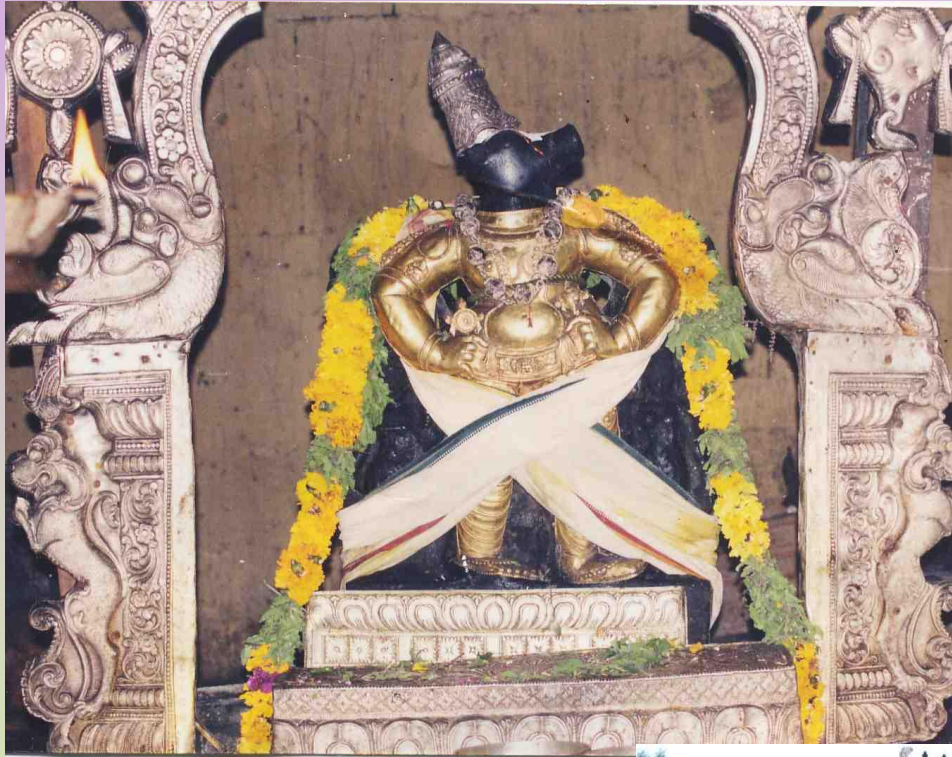
PAKSI TIRTHA/ VEDACALAM



VRDDHAKOLA /SRI MUSHNAM

- Located 12 miles from Vrdhachalam, Bhoovaraha Swamy Temple, Sveta Varaha Swamy Temple
- Deity is made of Saligrama, one of the 8 Svayamvakta Kshetra
 - Srirangam, Srimushnam, Tirupati, Vanamamalai,, Saligramam, Naimishashanya, Pushkar , Badri
- While dying, the demon king wished Vishnu to turn towards his direction, which Vishnu obliged. The presiding deity, hence has his face towards south, while his body faces the devotees in the western direction.. The festival deity, as requested by Bhudevi displays the regular features of Vishnu with his conch and Chakra in his hands, Yoga Varahaswamy
- Nitya Pushkarni tirtha made from the sweat of the lord
- Mention in Narada Purana

VRDDHAKOLA /SRI MUSHNAM



CHIDAMBARAM- THILLAI NATARAJA

- The only Siva deity in the dancing form of Lord Siva
- Chidambaram represents Akasha form among the panchabhutas

The gold-roofed stage is the **sanctum sanctorum** of the Chidambaram temple and houses the Lord in three forms:

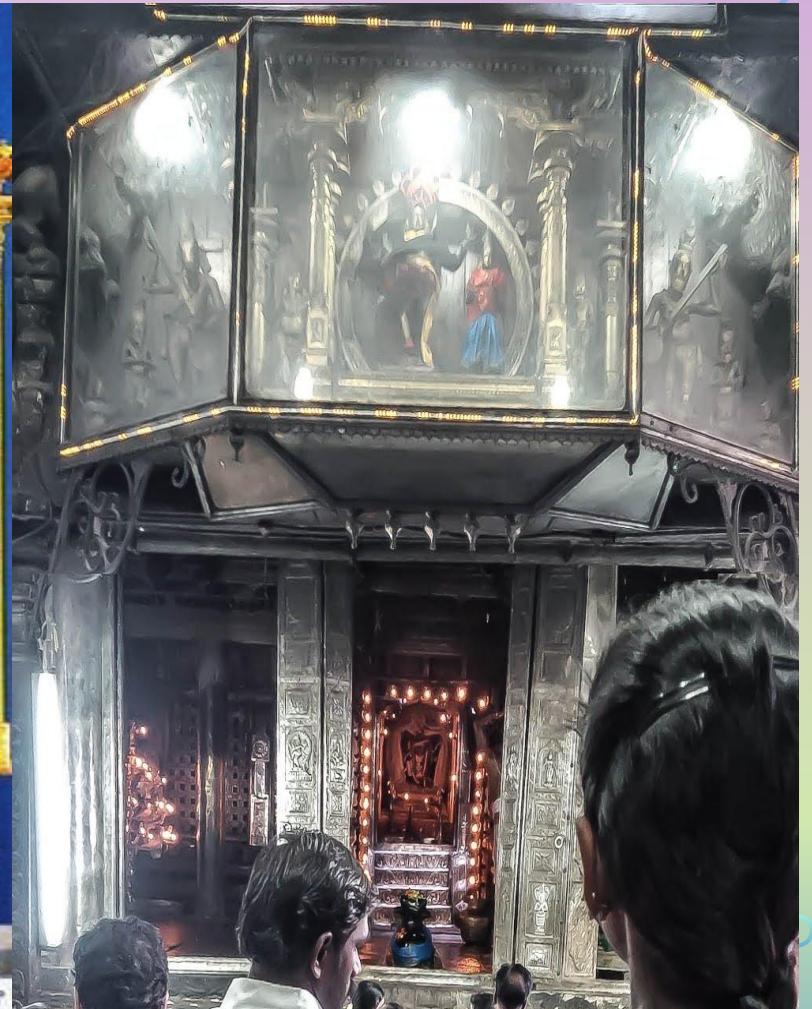
- Lord Natataja in dancing form
- the "semi-form" – the linga form as the Crystal linga of Chandramaulishvara
- the "formless" – as the space in Chidambara-rahasyam, an empty space within the sanctum sanctorum

CHIDAMBARAM



Lord Nataraja at the dance hall in Chidambaram. To the left of Lord Siva is His manifestation of formlessness is worshipped in Chidambaram. The Lord is said to continuously dance in a state of eternal bliss "Aananda thaandava", with His consort **Shakti** or energy called *Sivagami*. A curtain covers this space which when drawn reveals strands of golden 'Vilva' leaves hung to indicate the Lord's presence. The curtain is dark on its exterior side (indicating ignorance) and bright red on the interior side (indicating wisdom and bliss). Chidambara Rahasya - represented by strands of gold Vilva leaves. To the right is his Consort Goddess Sivagamasundari

CHIDAMBARAM



CHIDAMBARAM

Govindaraja appears as a judge to gauge the dance performance.



சயனத்தில் கோவிந்தராஜம் ஸ்ரீமான்

ŚIYĀLĪ-BHAIRAVĪ (Sirkazhi Sattanathar)

Three different forms of Shiva are worshipped here, the Shivalingam (Bhrammapureeswarar), a colossal image of Uma Maheswarar (Toniappar) at the medium level, and Bhairavar (Sattanathar) at the upper level. The temple is known by the legend of child Sambandar who is believed to have been fed by Parvathi on the banks of the temple tank. The child later went on to compose *Tevaram*, a Saiva canonic literature on Shiva and Thirugnanasambandar became one of the most revered Saiva poets in South India.

Sirkazhi Sattainathar

3

1



2



GO-SAMĀJA (Gopuri/Gomal)

Sri Krupakupareswarar temple

Parvati playfully closed the eyes of Lord Siva, and later came down as a cow and worshipped Lord Siva, hence the name of this place is Gomal or Gopuri



VEDĀVANA (Vedaranyam -Vedaranyeswar)



Vedaranyeswarar Temple



அருள்மிகு ஸ்ரீ வேதாரண்யேஸ்வரர் ஆலயம்
வேதாரண்யம்.

Vedavana

- Vedas personified worshipped Lord Siva here
- The vedas continue to worship Lord Siva in the form of trees and plants and hence the name vedaranya or vedavana

AMRTAGHATESWARAR-ABHIRAMI

- When the devas and asuras churned the Ocean of Milk to create Amrita, they forgot to worship Ganesha, who is to be worshiped before any great undertaking. Ganesha, hurt and offended at the unintentional slight by the devas, stole the pot of Amrita and hid it at Tirukkadaiyur. While there, Ganesha created a Shiva Lingam, dedicated to his father and mother, and poured some of the Amrita over it. Therefore, it is believed that the Shiva Lingam in this temple has the power to grant longevity to its worshipers.
- Lord Siva is known as Mrtyunjaya here, he saved Markendeya from early death

AMRTAGHATESWARAR-ABHIRAMI



AMRTAGHATESWARAR-ABHIRAMI



KUMBHAKARṆA-KAPĀLA/ KUMBHAKONAM

- Known as the temple town
- 12 Siva temples 4 Vishnu temples
- They are Kasi Viswanathar Temple, Kumbeswarar Temple, Nageswara Temple, Someswarar Temple, Koteeswarar Temple, Kahahasteeswarar Temple, Gowthameswarar Temple, Amirthakalasanathar Temple, Banapuriswarar Temple, Abimukeswarar Temple, Kambatta Visvanathar Temple and Ekambareswarar Temple. Of them 10 temples are in Kumbakonam. Likewise five Vishnu temples are connected with Mahamaham. They are Sarangapani Temple (Aravamudhan), Chakrapani Temple, Ramaswamy Temple, Rajagopalaswamy Temple, and Varahaperumal Temple. All these temples are found in Kumbakonam.

Kumbhakonam



- The name "Kumbakonam", roughly translated in English as the "Pot's Corner", the pot (*kumbha*) of *Brahma* that contained the seed of all living beings on earth. The *kumbha* is believed to have been displaced by a *pralaya* (dissolution of the universe) and ultimately came to rest at the spot where the town of Kumbakonam now stands.
- Kumbhakonam is in Tanjore district where the most important temple is Brhadishwara temple

KUMBHAKARṆA-KAPĀLA/ KUMBHAKONAM

Hundreds of temples in the vicinity within few miles of the town
Major ones include

- Nachiyar temple (Kalgarudan)
- Oppiliappan temple
- Thirucheraï- Pancasara kshetra- Lord Saranatha
- Thirukannamangai

KUMBHAKARṆA-KAPĀLA/ KUMBHAKONAM



PAPANASAM

There are three major temples, Pallaivanatha Swamy temple constructed by the **Cholas**, Srinivasa Perumal Temple and 108 Sivalayam temple

It is located 25 kilometres (16 mi) from **Thanjavur** and 15 kilometres (9.3 mi) from **Kumbakonam**.

PAPANASAM

- Thiruadhanur Temple - Where Kamadenu did penance to see the Lord
- The lord gave darshan to Thirumangai Alwar with a measuring bowl



SRIRANGAM



SRIRANGAM- Story by HH Radhanath Swami Maharaj



Later after several generations. the deity was found under a tree as revealed by a parrot and the deity was reinstalled and worshipped by Chola King Kili.

SRIRANGAM

- An island in Trichy surrounded by the kaveri river
- Deity handed over from Brahma -Surya - Ikshvaku-Rama-Vibhishana-ended up in Srirangam
- Most important temple for the Srivaishnavas, known as Periya kovil.
- Bhuloka Vaikunta, replica of Vaikunta
- 54 sanctums, several gopuras(towers) Ranganatha, Ranganayaki
- All the acaryas have lived here, Ramanuja special deity
- Brahmotsavam, Arayer Seva special



SRIRANGAM

- Lord Chaitanya meets Venkata bhatta, blesses Gopala Bhatta
- Conversation between Venkata Bhatta and Lord Chaitanya
- Hand carved deities of Lord Chaitanya, home still preserved and Venkata Bhatta's descendants live there
- Chaitnaya Mahaprabhu appreciates Brahmana reading Bhagavad Gita

RSHABHA PARVATA



- Azhagar malai - Kallazhagar kovil, Sundararajar, Sundarabahu
- Azhagar malai (Thirumaliruncholai) also known as Rishaba hills - Dharma in the form of a bull did penance here, Lord blessed Malayadhvaja Pandya and Manduka Rishi (Sutapa rishi)
- Sacred Noopura Ganga descended here, referred in Brahmanda and Vamana Puranas.
- Extends to Kodaikanal, Western Ghats till end of Karnataka
- Rishabha dev's body was burnt in the Kutakachala mountains described in Bhagavatam
- Chaitanya Mahaprabhu meets Paramananda Puri

MADURAI RSHABHA PARVATA

Kallazhagar



SRISAILAM 2 (detour -covered earlier)

Appears to be a repetition (Srisailam has already been discussed in Andhra Pradesh)

Already discussed there Lord Chaitanya met Lord Siva and Parvati in the guise of a Brahman and Brahmani

KAMAKOSHTIPURA

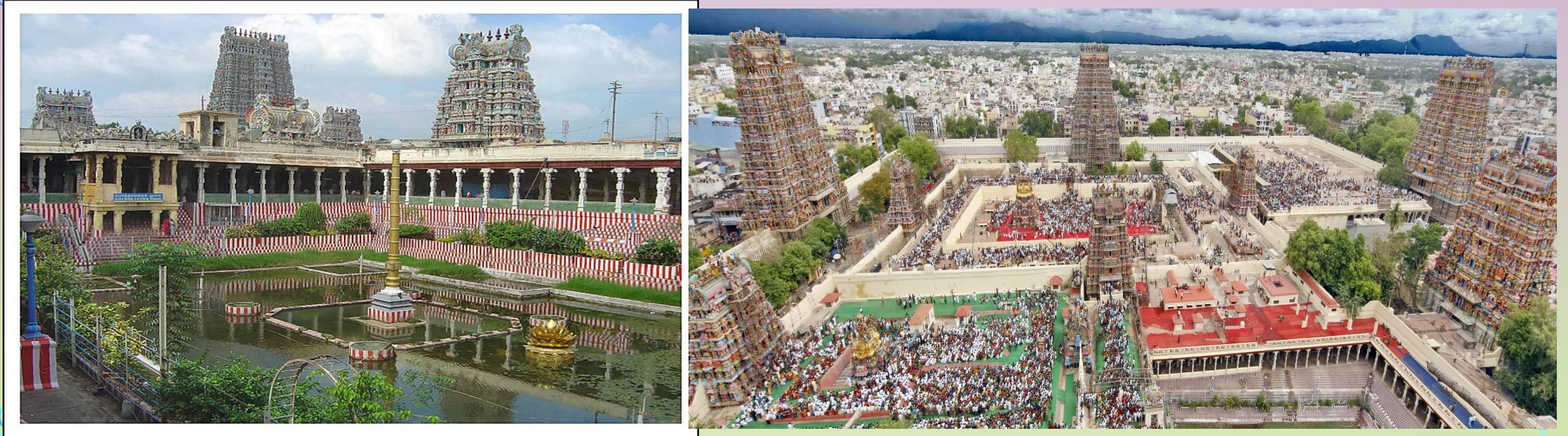
(a part of the detour after covering Srisailam, Ahobilam then Kamakoti)



- Kanchiveram temple Kanchi Kamakshi
- “ka” means Goddess Saraswathi, “ma” means Goddess Lakshmi, “akshi” means eyes. She who has both goddesses as her two eyes. She is seated in “padmasana” pose; lotus posture. She holds in her four hands Sugarcane, lotus. upper right she has a parrot. Two other hands, pasa and ankus, noose and goad. “Chendraperaai” on her forehead; moon shaped crescent.
- 14 Major Vishnu temples (divyadesams)
- Also Vardaraja temple (Vishnu Kanchi) and Siva kanchi is closeby
- Kanchi Kamakoti peetam (shankara math)
- Adi Sankaracharya composed and sang “ Soundarya Lahari”. Adi Sankaracharya established the Sri Chakra in this temple.
- One of the liberating kshetras
- Famous for Kanchi silk saris, Conjeevaram silk.

MADURAI

*(back to original route after srirangam and rishabha hill)



Temple of Goddess Meenakshi and Sundereswarar , she was the daughter of Malayadvaja Pandya, married to Lord Siva

Meenakshi Amman Temple

Madurai 2500 year old city

Original temple built by Kulasekhara Pandya. In the 14th century it was ransacked by the Mughal commander Mallik Kafur and was later rebuilt by Vishwanath Nayakar in the 16th century according to silpa sastra

Meenakshi Temple located on the Vaigai River

14 Gopurams or towers. Is part of the official seal of Tamil Nadu. Tallest being 170 ft high. Covered with many colorful stone figures.

Two golden Vimanas over the main sanctums/ "garbhagrihas

- Ashta Sakti Mandap, 1008 lamps candle votive.
- Meenakshi Nayakar Mandap
- Potramaraikulam: Lotus pond "academy of poets",
- Oonjal mandap
- Thousand pillar shrine: outside this are five the musical pillars; when struck produce a different musical note, the saptasvaras of Carnatic music.
- Vasantha Mandap



Madurai Sthala Purana

Madura Meenakshi incarnation of Goddess Parvati ; Lord Shiva is known as Sundaresvara

“Meena” means fish and “akshi” eyes: Protects her devotees with her eyes like a fish. She appeared out of the “Putra Kameshti Yagna” as an answer to the prayers of Malayadvaja Pandya, the 2nd Pandya king and wife Kanchanamalai.

She was born with three breasts, a heavenly voice declared that one would disappear when she met her future husband. Her father named her “Tadaatagai” and taught her the 64 arts.

She waged war on the three worlds and won then she went on to attack Mt. Kailasa. She defeated the bhootganas but when she saw Lord Shiva became shy and realized he was her Lord. Returns to Madurai and is coronated and wedded to Lord Shiva/ Sunderaswarar.


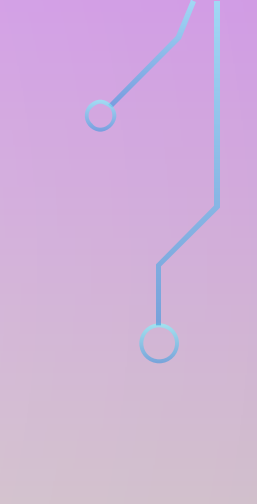
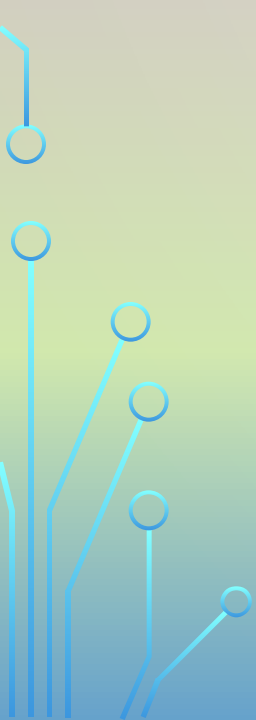
Known as the warrior goddess. Crescent moon in her hair, she holds a parrot on her right. Two handed, right one holding sword and left one holding a lotus. Her right side is crimson in color and the left side is in darker color.





MADURAI

Lord Chaitanya then meets Ramadasa vipra and their conversation is recorded.



THIRUPULLANI, DURVA SAYANA

-Saranagathi kshetra, Vibeeshana and Samudra Raja

Three altars:

- 1) Adi Jagannatha, closeby is Padmasani (consort) in the next altar.
- 2) Darbhashayana Rama – Lord Rama sleeping on darbha grass.
- 3) Pattabhiramam – Lord Rama giving darshan along with Sitadevi and Laxman.

Sri Kothandaramaswamy Temple, was Adi Jaganna Temple, Thirupullani. 8kms South East of Ramanathapuram on the Keelakarai Road is Thirupullani, located on the banks of river Sethu (Sethu Karai). This temple dates back to a time before Rama Avatar. Rama came here in his search for Sita. Rama himself is said to have prayed to Adi Jagannathan at this temple before he departed for Lanka.



THIRUPULLANI, DURVASAYANA



MAHENDRAGIRI PARVATA (Thirukkurungudi)

At the foothills of the Western Ghats and 40 km to the North of kanyakumari and about 120 km from Thiruvananthapuram the capital city of Kerala.

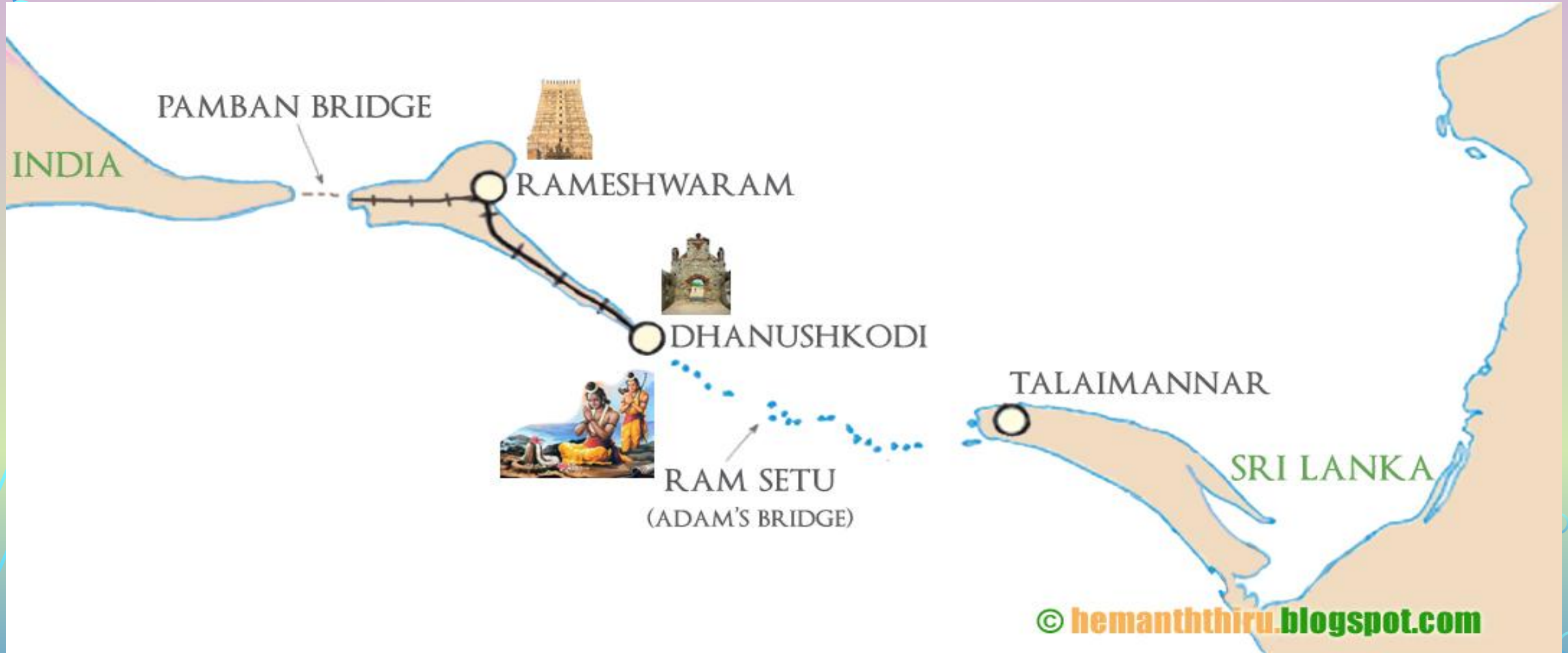
- 5 deities in different postures, malai Nambi is significant
- Kasika Ekadasi Pastime- Nampaduvan encounters Brahmarakshas
- Mahendragiri- Parasurama and Hanuman significance



MAHENDRAGIRI



SETHU BANDANA (DANUSHKODI TIRTHA)



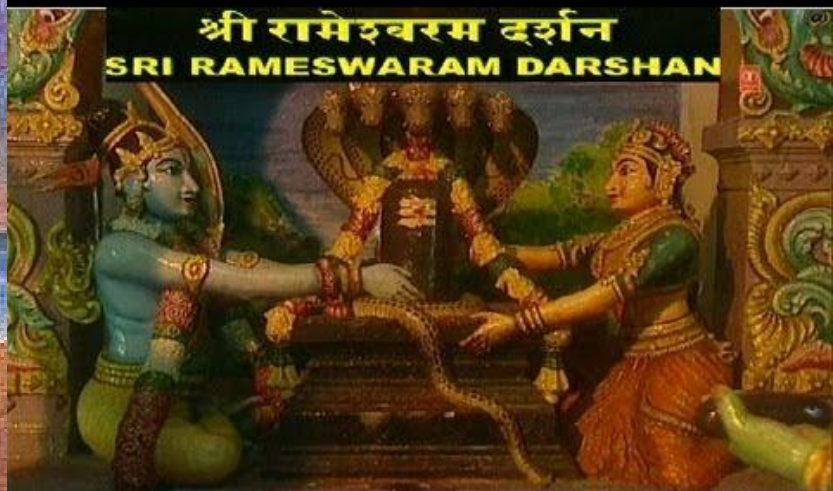
SETHU BANDANA (DANUSHKODI TIRTHA)



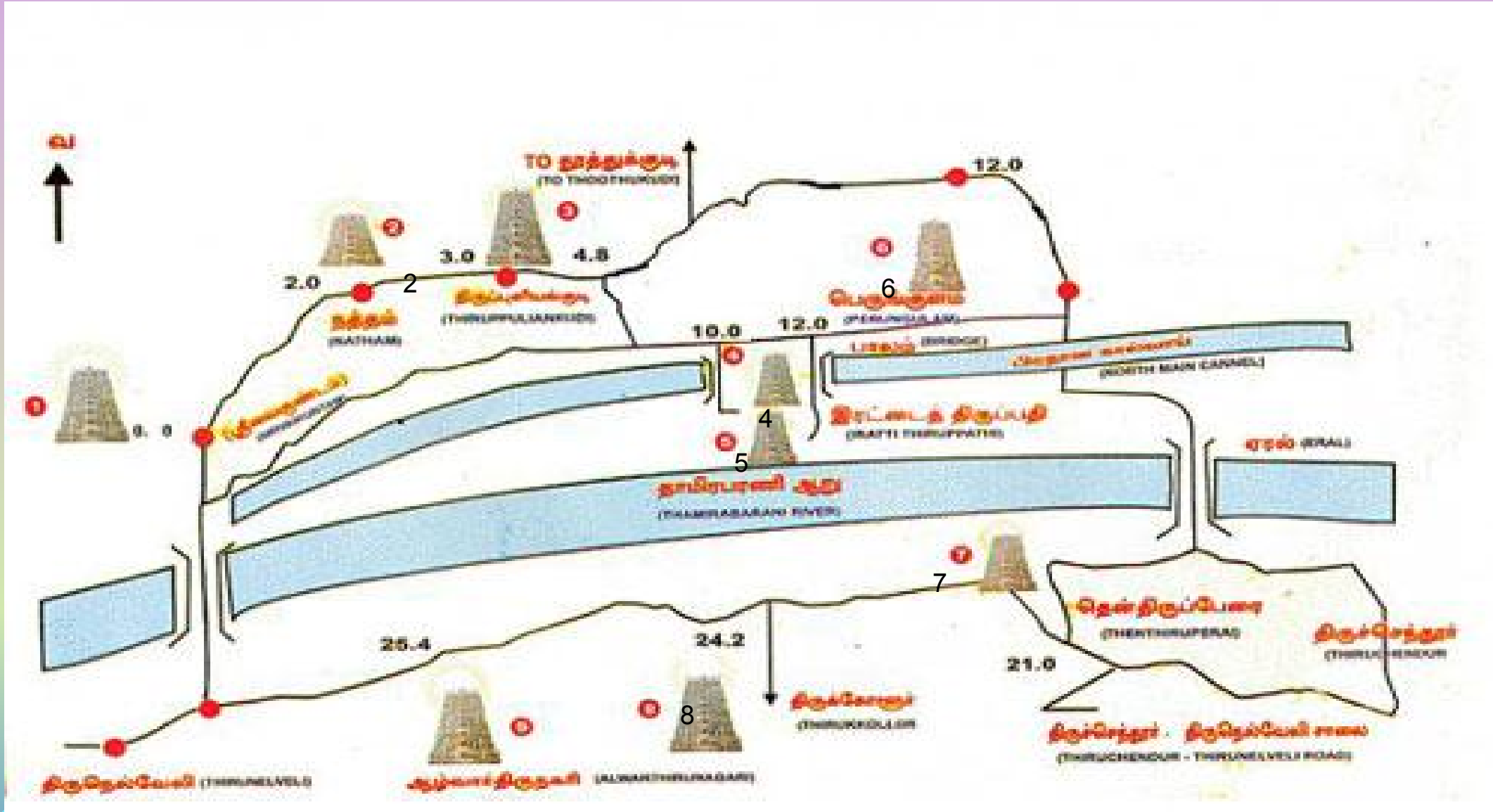
RAMESWARAM TEMPLE

According to the [Ramayana](#), [Rama](#), is believed to have prayed to Shiva here to absolve sin of killing a brahmana, committed during his war against the demon king [Ravana](#) in [Sri Lanka](#) Rama wanted to have the largest *linga* to worship Shiva (vishvalingam). He directed [Hanuman](#) to bring the *linga* from [Himalayas](#). Since it took longer to bring the *linga*, [Sita](#), the wife of Rama, built a small lingam out of the sand available in the sea shore, which is believed to be the *lingam* in the sanctum. There is no mention of this story in Vlamiki Ramayana

RAMESWARAM



NAVA TIRUPATI



NAVA TIRUPATI

The following is the list of the 9 temples (within 10 km, Thirunelveli, banks of Thamirabarani)

- Sri Vaikuntanatha (Kallapiran) Temple – Sri Vaikuntam
- Vijayaasanar Temple – Thiru Varagunamangai (Natham)
- Kaisinavendhan (Boomi Palar) Temple – Thiruppulinkudi
- Adhinaathar Temple – Thirukkurugur (Azhwar Thirunagari)
- Vaithamanidhi Perumal Temple – Thirukolur
- AravindaLochana Temple – Rettai Tirupathi
- Devapiran Temple – Rettai Tirupathi, Tholaivillimangalam
- Makara Nedunkuzhai Kannan (Mughil Vannan)-Thentirupati
- Sri Venkatavanan Perumal (Mayakoothar) Temple, Thirukulanthai

NAVA TIRUPATI

- Sri Vaikuntanatha (Kallapiran) Temple – Sri Vaikuntam – Surya (Sun) sthala



NAVA TIRUPATI

- Vijayaasanar Temple – Thiru Varagunamangai (Natham) – Chandra (Moon) sthala



NAVA TIRUPATI

- Kaisinavendhan (Boomi Palar) Temple – Thiruppulinkudi – Budha (Mercury) sthala



NAVA TIRUPATI

- Adhinaathar Temple – Thirukkurugur (Azhwar Thirunagari) – Guru (Jupiter) sthala



NAVA TIRUPATI

- Vaithamanidhi Perumal Temple – Thirukolur – Sevvai (Mars) sthala
- Story of Thirukolur Ammal words (Thirukolur Pen Pillai Rahasyam)



NAVA TIRUPATI

- Makara Nedunkuzhai Kadan (Mughil Vannan) Temple, Then Thirupperai
- – Sukra (Venus) sthala



Lord wears shark shaped earrings presented by Bhudevi

NAVA TIRUPATI

- Sri Venkatavanan Perumal (Mayakoothar) Temple – Thirukkulandhai, Perunkulam – Sani (Satrun) sthala

Asura called Achmasaran fought with the God Vishnu here and Vishnu demolished the asura after dancing on him. As per the Deva's wish, the god here is called as Maya Koothan. At this temple Garuda -located along with Lord Vishnu.



NAVA TIRUPATI

Aravinda Lochanan Temple – Rettai Tirupathi, Tholaivillimangalam –
Kethu sthala



NAVA TIRUPATI

Devapiran Temple – Rettai Tirupathi, Tholaivillimangalam –
Rahu sthala



CIYADATALA (CHERATALA- Nalambalam)

- Known as Sherthalla

Also 4 Rama temples north of sherthella:

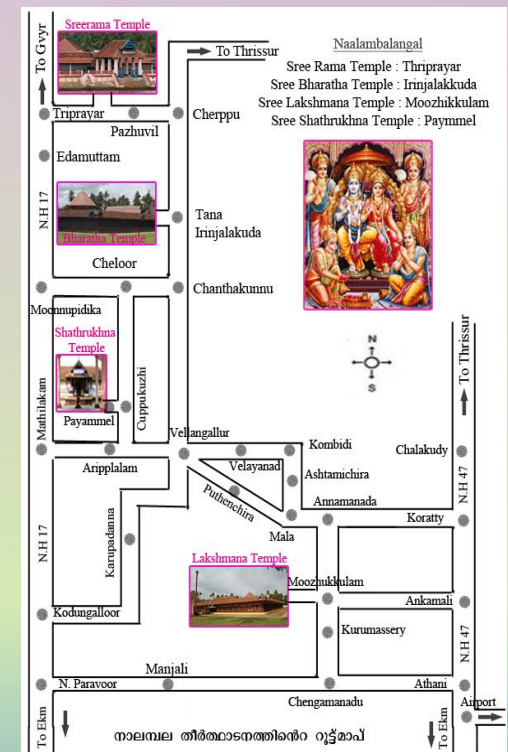
Thriprayar Sreerama Temple- Rama

Koodalmanikyam Temple, Irinjalakuda- Bharata

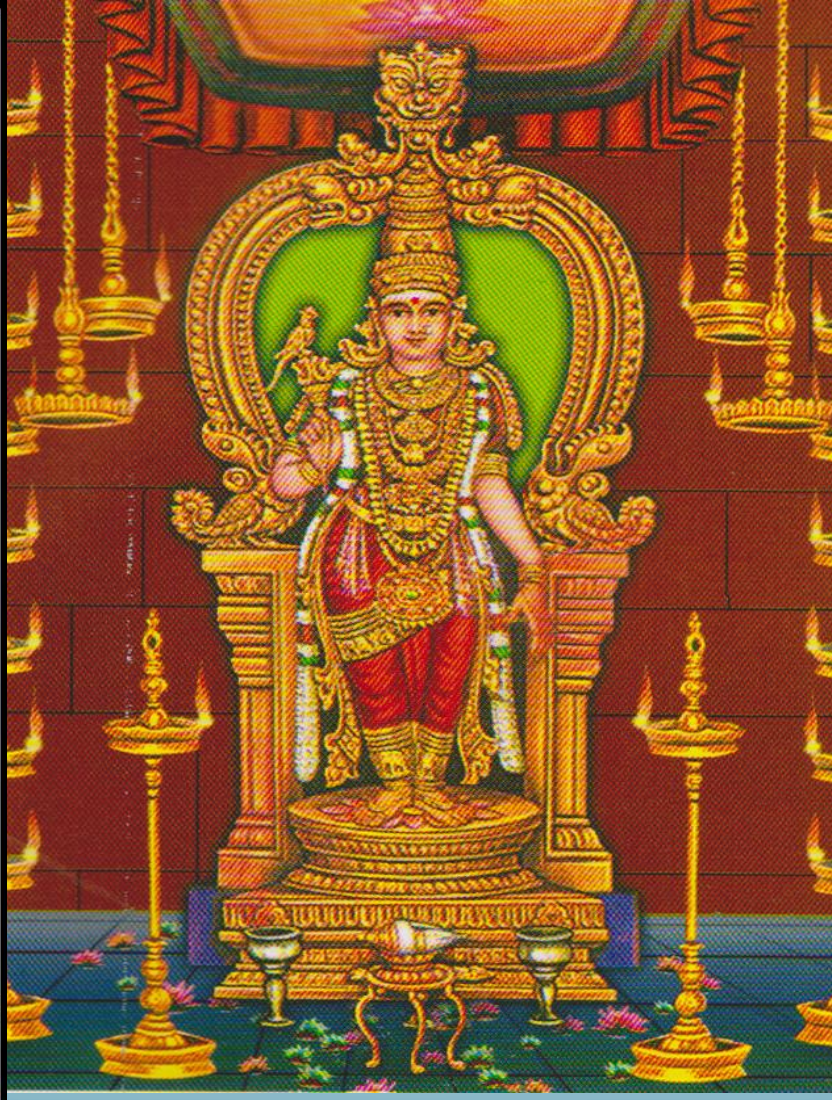
Moozhikkulam Sree Lakshmana Perumal Temple- Lakshmana

Payammal Sree Shathruknya swaamee Temple- Shatrugna

(All the temples can be covered in one stretch in a single day, north of Sherthella)



TIKA KASI (THENKASI)



THENKASI

- Kasi Vishvanatha Temple, South Kashi. 30 miles NE of Thirunelveli

King Parakrama Pandiya was taking up a pilgrimage to Kasi as and when he desired to worship Lord Viswanatha. The Lord appeared in his dream that he could build a temple here itself to avoid a long journey to north. He advised the king to follow the movement of ants' row and build the temple where it ended. The ant-line ended on the banks Chitraru River dense with Shenbaga trees. He found a swayambulinga near an anthill and built the temple as directed by the Lord. Mother Durga is known as Ulagammal.

GAJENDRA MOKSHANA -Thirunelveli ?

- Gajendravaradaswamy temple - The sanctum has the main deity Aadi Moolam; he is found with four arms and in the standing posture; his two consorts Sri Devi and Bhoo Devi are found in the standing posture on his either sides. The sages Markandeya and Bhrigu are also found inside the main shrine. As per the legend, they got darshan of Lord in this site.
- King Indradyumna is known to have ruled this place
- Present on the banks of Tamaraparani river, Athalanallur.

Also there is the temple Kapishtalam near Kumbakonam where the famous Gajendra moksha temple is present



GAJENDRA MOKSHANA - Suchindram ? (2 mi south of Nagarcoil)



PANAGADI (Panagudi- Ramalinga Swamy)

Earlier known as Sotta Narayanam, Originally Rama deities



CAMPTAPURA

Chengannur- Rama temple?- Nalambalam covered earlier
Thrichittatt Maha Vishnu Temple by Yudhishthira, Puliur Mahavishnu
Temple by Bheema, Aranmula Parthasarathy Temple by Arjuna,
Thiruvandoor Mahavishnu Temple by Nakula and Thrikodithanam
Mahavishnu Temple by Sahadeva.

Srivaikuntam - Navatirupati
(Covered earlier)

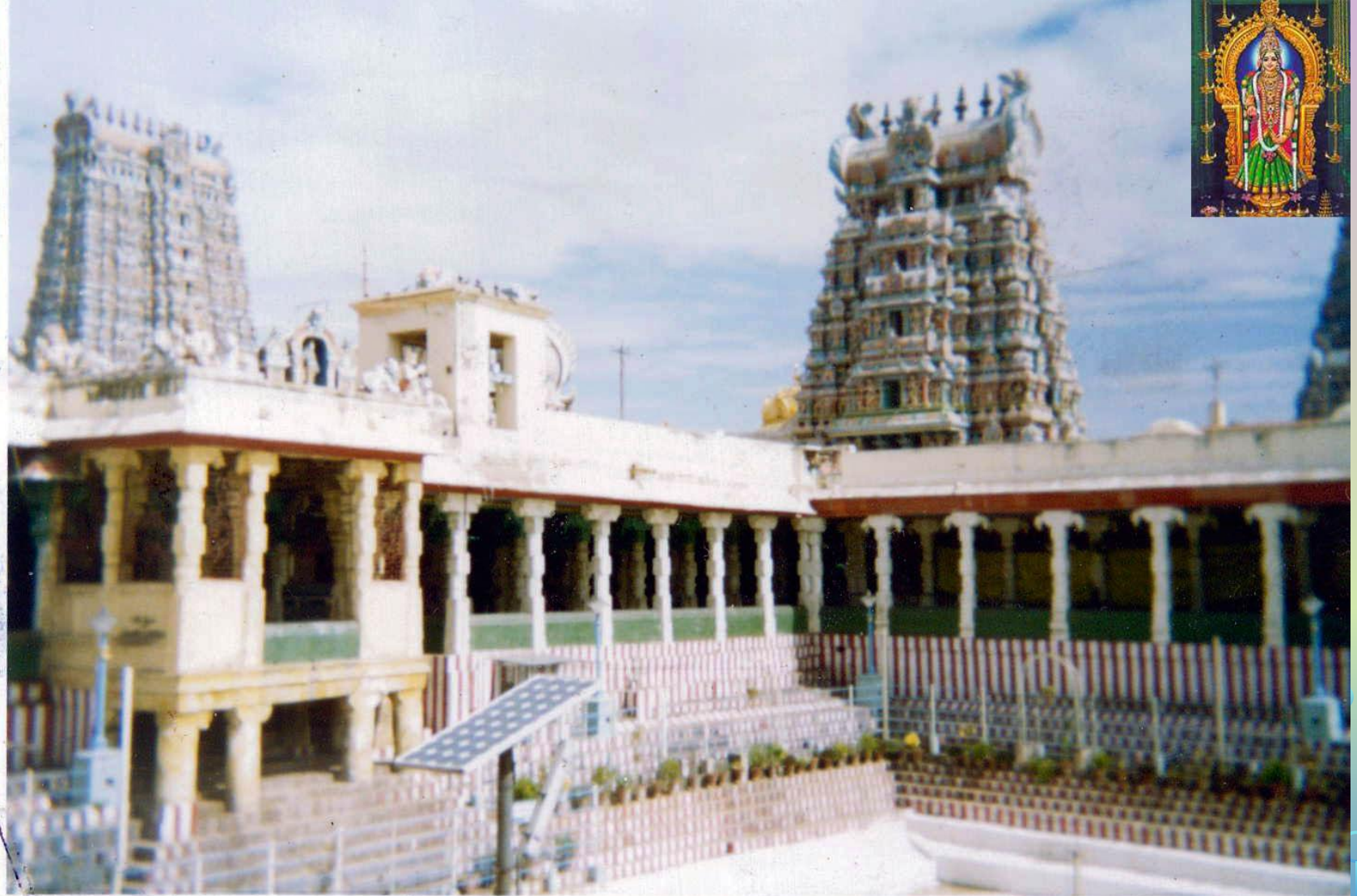
MALAYA PARVAT



-Agastya malai, podhigai hills

The range of mountains in South India beginning at Kerala and extending to Cape Comorin is called Malaya-parvata. Concerning Agastya, there are four opinions: (1) There is a temple of Agastya Muni in the village of Agastyampallī, in the district of Tanjore. (2) There is a temple of Lord Skanda on a hill known as Śiva-giri, and this temple is said to have been established by Agastya Muni. (3) Some say that the hill near Cape Comorin known as Paṭhiyā served as Agastya Muni's residence. (4) There is a place known as Agastya-malaya, which is a range of hills on both sides of the Tāmraparṇī River. Cape Comorin itself is also known as Kanyā-kumārī.

KANYAKUMARI (Cape Comorin)



KANYAKUMARI

- This is the point where the Indian Ocean in the South, the Arabian Sea in the West and the Bay of Bengal in the east meet together.
- Kumari Amman or Devi Bhagavathi
- Lord Siva was delayed in arriving from Suchindram to marry her
- Bana was killed by her (He had a boon that only a virgin can kill him)
- Installed by Parasurama



MALLARADESHA

Amlitala?

Incident with the Bhattatharis (western ghats south)



MALLARADESHA, Tamala kartika (Thovalai Murugan)



MALLARADESHA, Vetapani

Bhoothalingaswamy Temple, Bhoothappandi

Boothapandi is a headquarters of Thovalai taluk in Kanyakumari District, India. It is seven kilometers north east of Nagercoil. The village sits on the western bank of the river Pazhaiyar, at the foot of the hill known as Thadakaimalai which is considered to be the abode of Thadakai in the Ramayana. IBoothalingaswami temple is situated on the foothills, supposed to be a Rama temple before Pandya invasion



ADI KESAVA TEMPLE



Adi Kesava temple

Lord Brahma performed a *yajna* without Saraswati Devi and as a result of Saraswati's anger, two asuras (brother and sister) by name Kesan and Kesi emerged out of the *Yajna agni* (sacrificial fire). They were troubling the three worlds. The *Demigods* approached Lord Vishnu and requested Him to find a solution. Lord Maha Vishnu in the form of Adi Kesava fought with Kesan. Lord threw Kesan who fell on top of Mahendragiri and lord blew His conch. Instantaneously, Adi Shesha wound himself around Kesan thus disabling the *asura* to move and Lord immediately laid on Adishesha thus putting His weight on the *asura*. When the *asura* tried to get out of Adi Shesha's coils, Lord made 12 *Shiva-lingams* to stand as guard all around the *asura* and him. These famous Shiva Temples are Thirumala, Thikkurussi, Thrupparappu, Thirunandhikkara, Ponmana, Pannippakam, Kalkkulam, Melankodu, Thiruvidaikkodu, Thiruvithamkode, Thiruppanrikkode and Thirunattalam. These are situated at quite a distance from Adikeshav temple. Even today, the worship to Lord Shiva on the occasion of *Siva-ratri*– the famous *Shivalaya ottam* – is said to be complete only when the Siva devotee after visiting the 12 Siva shrines ends his trip in the Adikeshav Perumal Temple.

Adi kesava

Meanwhile, Kesi who saw her brother defeated wanted to take revenge and hence she along with her friend, Kothai took the form of rivers and encircled the temple with the intention of submerging the temple. At that time, it is believed that Bhumi devi raised the temple at a height. Hence, the temple is situated at a height of 55 feet from the ground level. The image of the Gopuram clearly indicates this. The rivers joined with Arabian Sea at a place known as *Moovaatru mukham*. These rivers were then cursed by Lord to remain as sinful rivers and they later repented for their action. The Merciful Lord forgave them and purified them by taking a dip in them. Even today, during *Painguni utsavam*, *Lordsutsava-vigraha* comes on a golden Garuda and have a dip in the river thus enacting the Incident.

ADI KESAVA TEMPLE

- Lord AdiKesavaSwamy defeated the demon Kesi. The demon's wife prayed to the River [Ganges](#) and to River [Thamirabarani](#) and created a destruction. But it was in vain and she surrendered to the Lord. Thus, the formation of the rivers made in a circle came to be known as Thiruvattaru. Deity is made of 16008 Saligram silas.
- Lord Chaitanya retrieved the Brahma Samhita from this temple

PADMANABHA SWAMY TEMPLE

- Several extant Hindu Texts like the *Brahma Purana*, *Matsya Purana*, *Varaha Purana*, *Skanda Purana*, *Padma Purana*, *Vayu Purana*, *Bhagavata Purana* and the *Mahabharata* mention this shrine
- In the sanctum sanctorum, Padmanabha reclines on the serpent *Anantha* or *Adi Sesha*. The serpent has five hoods facing inwards, signifying contemplation. The Lord's right hand is placed over a *Shiva lingam*. *Sridevi-Lakshmi*, the Goddess of Prosperity and *Bhudevi* the Goddess of Earth, two consorts of Vishnu are by his side. *Brahma* emerges on a lotus, which emanates from the navel of the Lord. The deity is made from 12,000 *saligramams*

PADMANABHA SWAMY TEMPLE

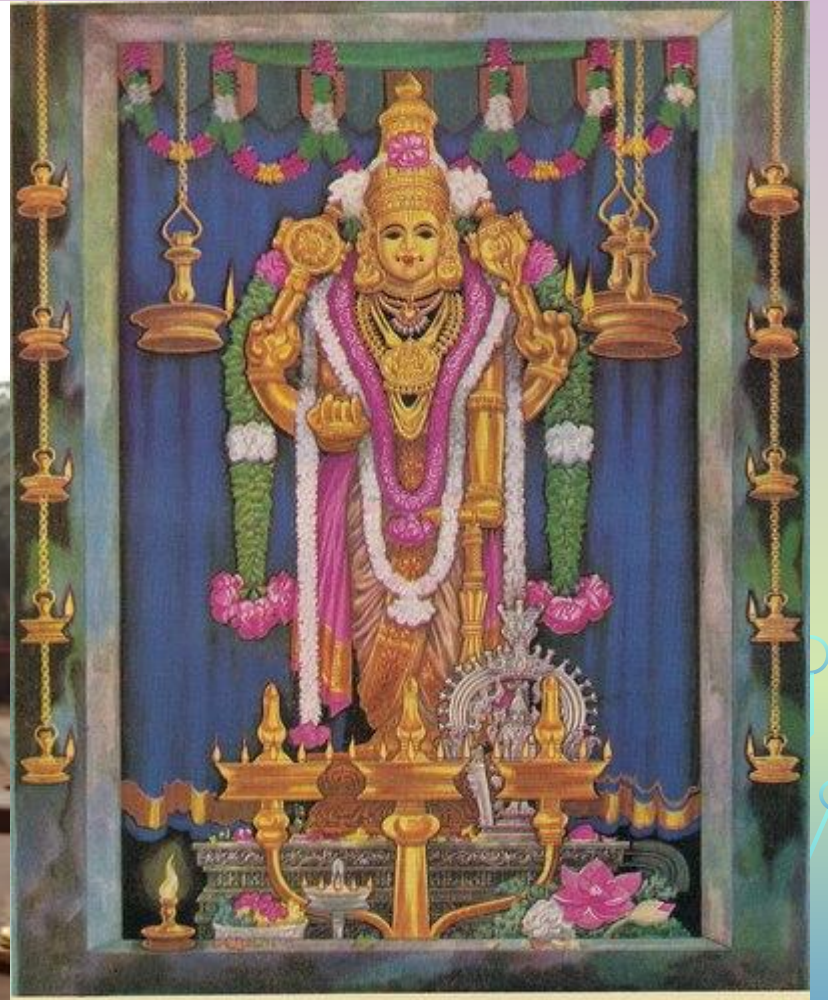


JANARDHANA TEMPLE

Janardana Swami Temple is a 2000-year-old temple situated in [Varkala](#), Thiruvananthapuram.

- Varkala is the place where Narada's vastra fell and the demigods did penance here
- The Deity facing East, has His right hand is raised towards his mouth and legends say that if his hand goes nearer to his mouth, the world will come to an end.
- Lord Balaram has visited this place.

JANARDHANA TEMPLE



Sri JANARDHANA — Varkala

SHANKARA NARAYANA

Enters Karnataka....**Shankaranarayana** is a village in **Kundapura** taluk of **Udupi district** in the state of **Karnataka**



SHANKARA NARAYANA

- The main deity of Shankaranarayana Temple is in the form of **Udbhava Linga**. The naturally formed lingam of Lord Shankara and Lord Narayana is one feet below the ground, inside the **sanctum**, The devotees can only see the mirror image of the lingam.
- The Shankara Linga is on the right (left as seen by the devotees) and Narayana Linga on the left. While Shankara Lingam is in round shape, where as Narayana Linga is a flat one with foot prints of holy cow in it. Devotees believe that these were foot prints of **Kamadhenu** (holy cow) which had stood here for dripping milk on the Shankara Linga. There is water around Udbhava Linga at any time of the year. This holy water is called **Suddhamrita Theertha**

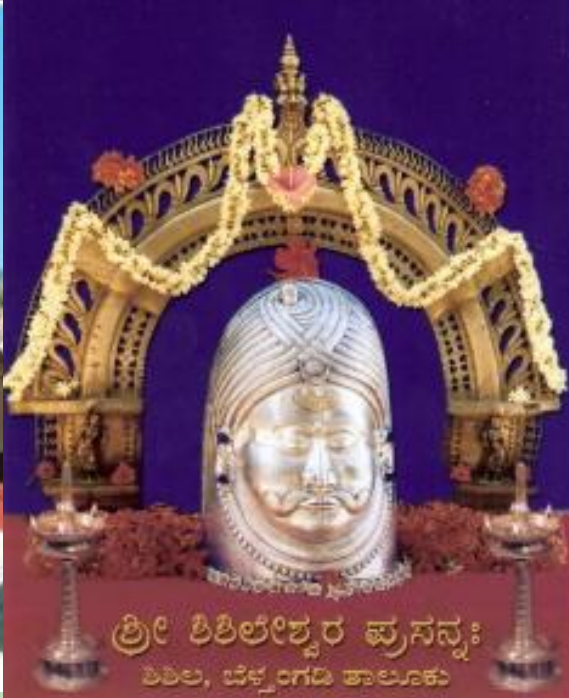
SRNGERI MUTT



SRNGERI MUTT

- Adi Shankara established one of his major mutts here
- Rishyasrnga is known to have performed penance here
- Adi Shankara saw a cobra giving shelter to a frog who was about to give birth, hence he was bewildered by the sanctity of the place
- He invoked the Goddess Sharada devi here and made this his peetam and disseminated his teachings

MATSYA THIRTHA (Shishileswara Temple)

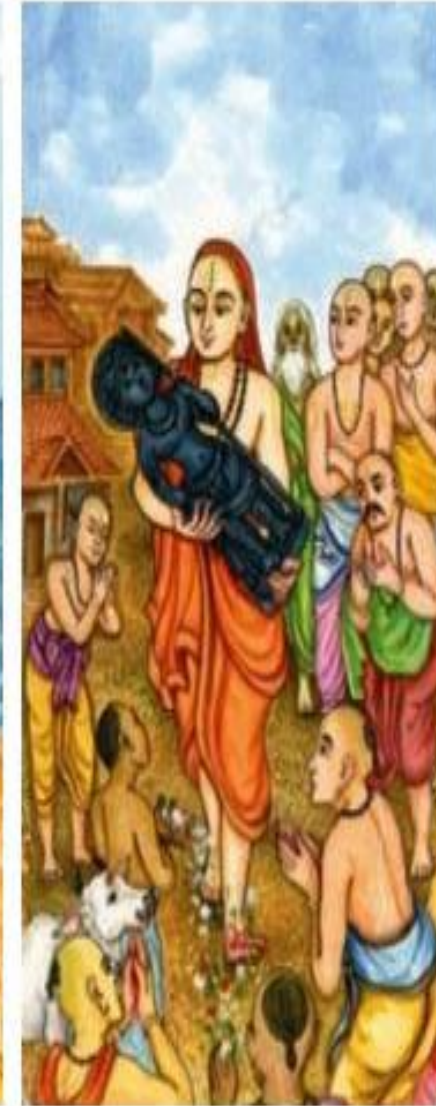


Matsya thirtha is the home to several fish in the river Kapila on the banks of a Siva temple called Sishileswara

UDUPI



UDUPI



PHALGU-TĪRTHA

Phalguni River/Kulur river (Gurupura) in Mangalore district, South Canara
Nandaneshwara temple, Sathyadevata temple is of significance



TRITAKŪPA (VISHALA DEITY)

???

PANCAPSARA TIRTHA

In Dandakaranya forest area

Apsarās named Latā, Budbudā, Samīcī, Saurabheyī and Varṇā were sent by Indra to disturb the penance of Acyuta Rishi.

They were cursed to become crocodiles

They were delivered by Arjuna

This place is visited by Lord Ramachandra during his stay in Dandakaranya

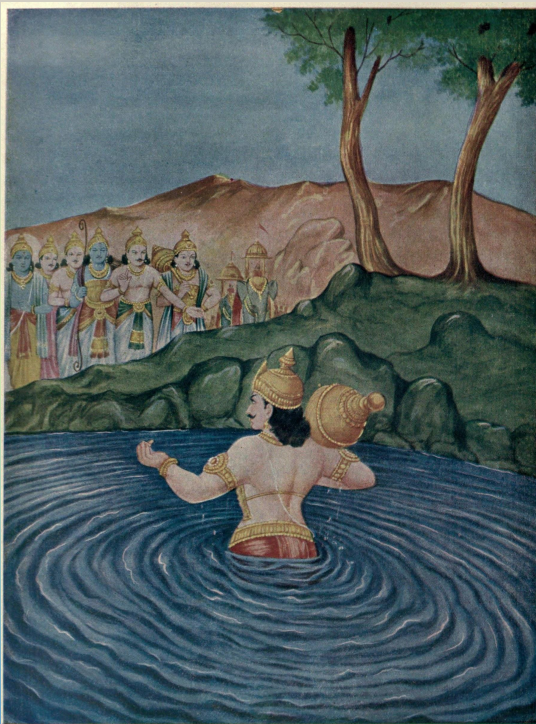
GOKARṆA.

- Ravana was given the Atmalinga by Lord Siva
- While he was taking the Linga to his capital he was tricked by Ganapati and the Linga got established in Gokarna
- The atmalinga got to be known as Mahabaleshwara and a Ganapati deity was established closeby



DVAIPĀYANI?

A small lake in Kurukshetra where Duryodhana was hiding before he fought his last battle with Bhimasena. Also identified as the present day Brahma Sarovar?

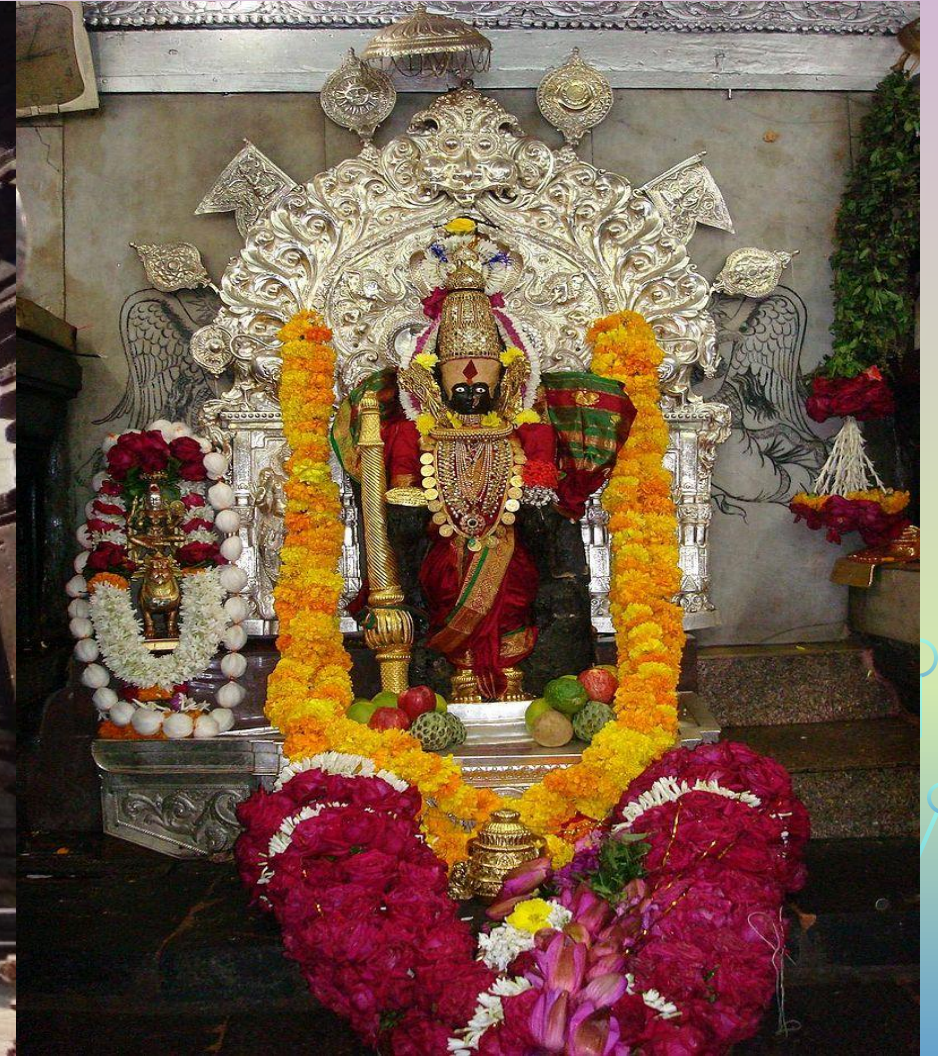


SŪRPĀRAKA-TĪRTHA



- Known as Sopara today, 26 mi north of Mumbai
- In ancient times, it was the largest township on India's west coast, trading with Mesopotamia, Egypt, Cochin, Arabia and Eastern Africa.
- The Mahabharata and the Puranas state that the Śūrpāraka was reclaimed from the sea for the dwelling place of Parashurama and it became a place of pilgrimage for this reason
- Kingdom of Ashoka. Jainism and Buddhism flourished in this region
- Chakreswar Mahadev temple is an ancient temple in this location,
- Chakreshwar tirtha and Ram mandir nearby

KOHLĀPURA



KOLĀPURA

- Mahalakshmi temple , She settled in Kohlapur when Lord Mahavishnu was insulted by Bhrgu Rishi
- Lord came down as Lord Venkatesa in Tirupati while Mahalakshmi did penance in Kohlapura
- Shakti peeta, Sri yantra is present

CORA PARVATI/LANGA GANESHA

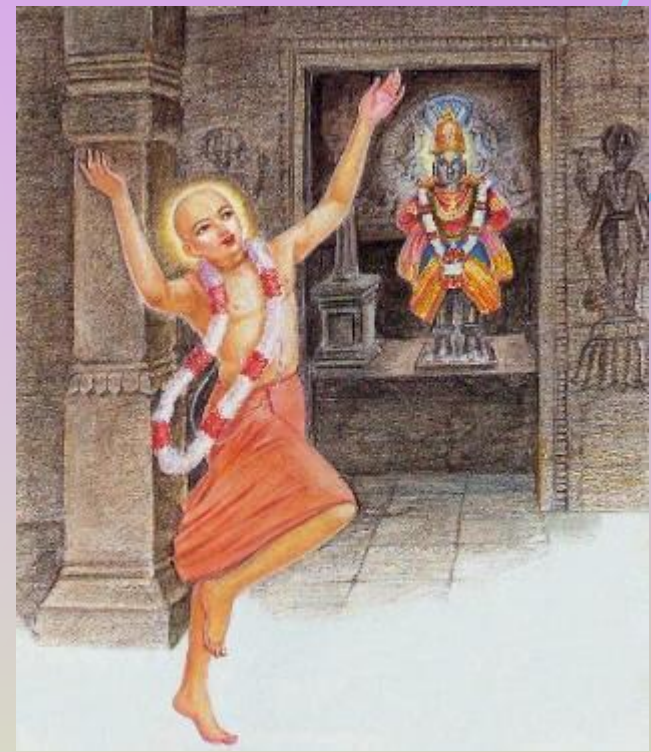
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VITHTHALA PANDARIPURA



VITTHALA PANDARIPURA

- Five-thousand-year-old self-manifested Deity of Lord Vitthala
- Blackish-complexioned Deity of Sri Vitthala is three and a half feet tall. His consort is Rukmini
- He stands on a brick, His hands resting on His hips. This posture reflects His pastimes in Pandharpur.
- Appeared here to please his devotee Pundalika
- Saint Thukaram, Namadev, Jnaneswar have worshipped the Lord here



DWARAKA



**Underwater
Dwarka**



DWARAKA

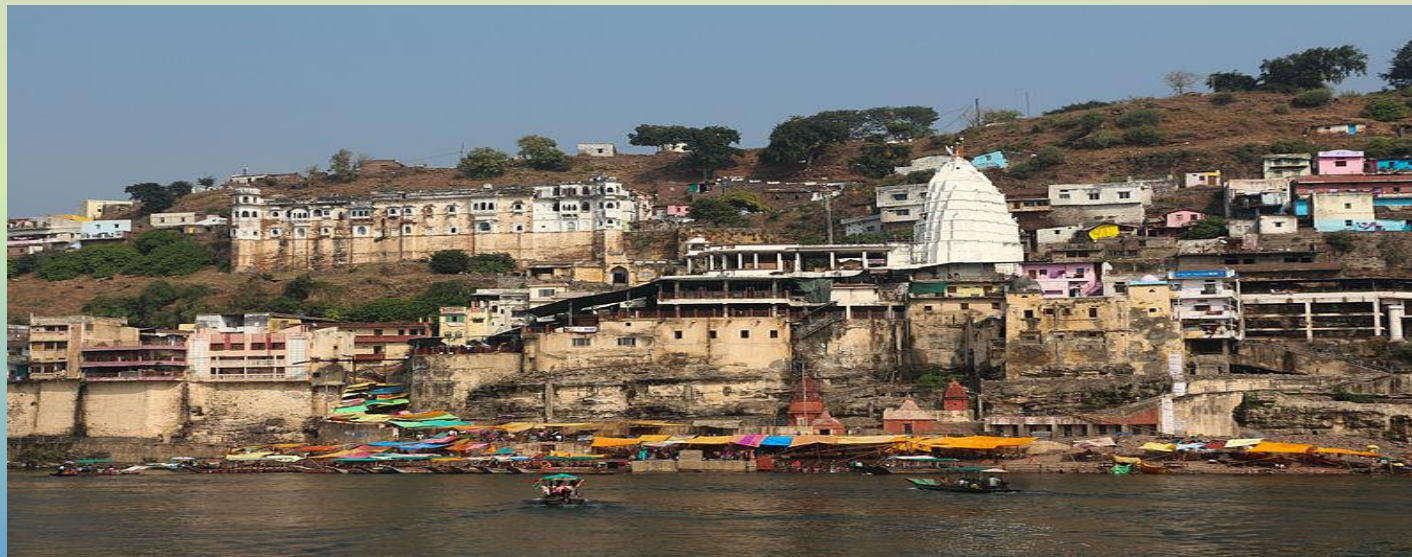


DWARAKA

- (1) DWARAKADEESH DWARAKA : The main temple of Lord Krishna.
- (2) GOMTI DWARAKA: The main temple stands on the banks of Gomti river. There is a small shrine for Gomti Devi
- (3) RUKMINI DWARAKA : About 4 km from the main temple is situated a temple dedicated to Rukmini. Lord Krishna is said to have married Rukmini here.
- (4) BHET DWARAKA : Island called Bhet Dwaraka. 'Bhet' in the local language means ' Island '. It is said that Lord Krishna ruled from here. There are several Sanctums there. One of them is for Devaki, Krishna's mother. There is a lounge and a couch on which Lord Krishna received Sudama, Nearby is Gopitala.
More Dwarakas existed there but all of them are submerged under the Sea.
- (5) MOOLA DWARAKA : This is the place where Lord Krishna is said to have set foot first on arriving at Dwaraka

MAHISHMATI PURA

- Ancient city in Central India/ Madhya Pradesh on the banks of River Narmada
- Identified with the city of Maheshwar, kingdom of Kartavirya Arjun
- Famous Siva temples
- Also identified with Mandhata Omkareswar, houses the jyotirlinga and the kingdom was founded by Muchukunda





DHANUS-TĪRTHA

In the Dandakaranya forest



ṚṢYAMŪKA MOUNTAIN

- In the Kishkinda Vanara kingdom, currently in Karnataka Hampi but a part of the ancient Dandakaranya forest area
- Hanuman and Sugreeva spent their exile on the Rshyamukha parvat when they were banished by King Vali
- They met Rama for the first time here. There is also a temple of Chandramouleswara



DANḌAKĀRAṆYA

- Rama and Sita spent their time in exile here
- Danda was punished for his actions and hence this land became forsaken and came to be known as Dandakaranya
- Many demons were delivered here
- Also Ravana ruled this area for a period of time, it was a territory of Lanka.

DANḌAKĀRANYA

INDIA'S DANDAKARANYA REGION



PAÑCAVAṬĪ



PAÑCAVAṬĪ

- Five large banyan trees- Panchavati
- Aranya Khanda of Rama happened here in Panchavat Nashik
- Sita Ram Lakshman lived here building a hut for their stay
- Surpanaka encounters Rama Lakshman here and she was punished by Lakhsman by chopping her nose and ears
- Mareecha disguised as a golden deer and Sita was abducted by Ravana here.

NASHIK



TRYMBAKA (Tryambakeshwar temple)



KUSHAVARTA

Shani snan happens during Khumba mela



SAPTA GODAVARI

Pond near Bheemeswara swamy temple, Draksharamam, Andhra Pradesh

